

Simitis says Cyprus is Greece's top priority

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis on Tuesday pledged top priority for Cyprus, with which his country has a joint defence pact aimed at deterring a perceived threat from Turkey.

"The Cyprus problem is a top priority for Greece in its foreign policy," Mr. Simitis said on arrival at Larnaca airport for Cyprus independence day celebrations.

Later Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and Mr. Simitis took the salute at a large military parade on the southern outskirts of the capital Nicosia.

Before a crowd of thousands, Cyprus displayed newly acquired T-80 Russian-built tanks, delivered earlier this month.

Military hardware ranged from armoured personnel carriers, to rockets and launchers. Police helicopters hovered overhead.

Cyprus gained independence from Britain in 1960. In 1974 Turkey invaded the northern part of the island in the wake of a short-lived coup engineered by the military ruling Greece at the time. United Nations efforts to reunify the island have failed to produce results.

Turkey maintains some 30,000 troops in the north of Cyprus, declared a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in 1983 but recognised only by Ankara.

Mr. Clerides on Monday said Cyprus would continue to strengthen defences until a way is found to reunify

the country and remove Turkish troops.

"My visit today on the anniversary of Cyprus independence is because we want to show we support the independence of the Cyprus republic and we want to help it, to assist it in every way to restore its territorial integrity over all Cyprus," Mr. Simitis said.

Mr. Simitis is on his first visit outside Greece since winning national elections last week. It is the first visit by a Greek prime minister to the island's independence day celebrations.

From early morning main roads to Nicosia were blocked by traffic as thousands of people gathered in bright sunshine to watch the annual parade and to cheer Mr. Simitis.

Schoolchildren waving yellow-and-white Cypriot flags and blue and white Greek ones lined the route Mr. Simitis took to the capital.

The parade was temporarily disrupted when a man climbed onto a nearby water tower with a Turkish flag he intended burning, witnesses said. He was pulled off and arrested by police.

Mr. Simitis said Cyprus and Greece seek a settlement of the island's problem through diplomacy.

But, "at the same time they promote the strengthening of the island's defences through their joint defence pact," he added.

"International public opinion shows ... that the illegal occupation of

Cyprus cannot continue," Mr. Simitis said.

His noted last month's resolution by the European Union parliament to cut off financial aid to Turkey until it improves its human rights record and indicates readiness to solve the Cyprus problem on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

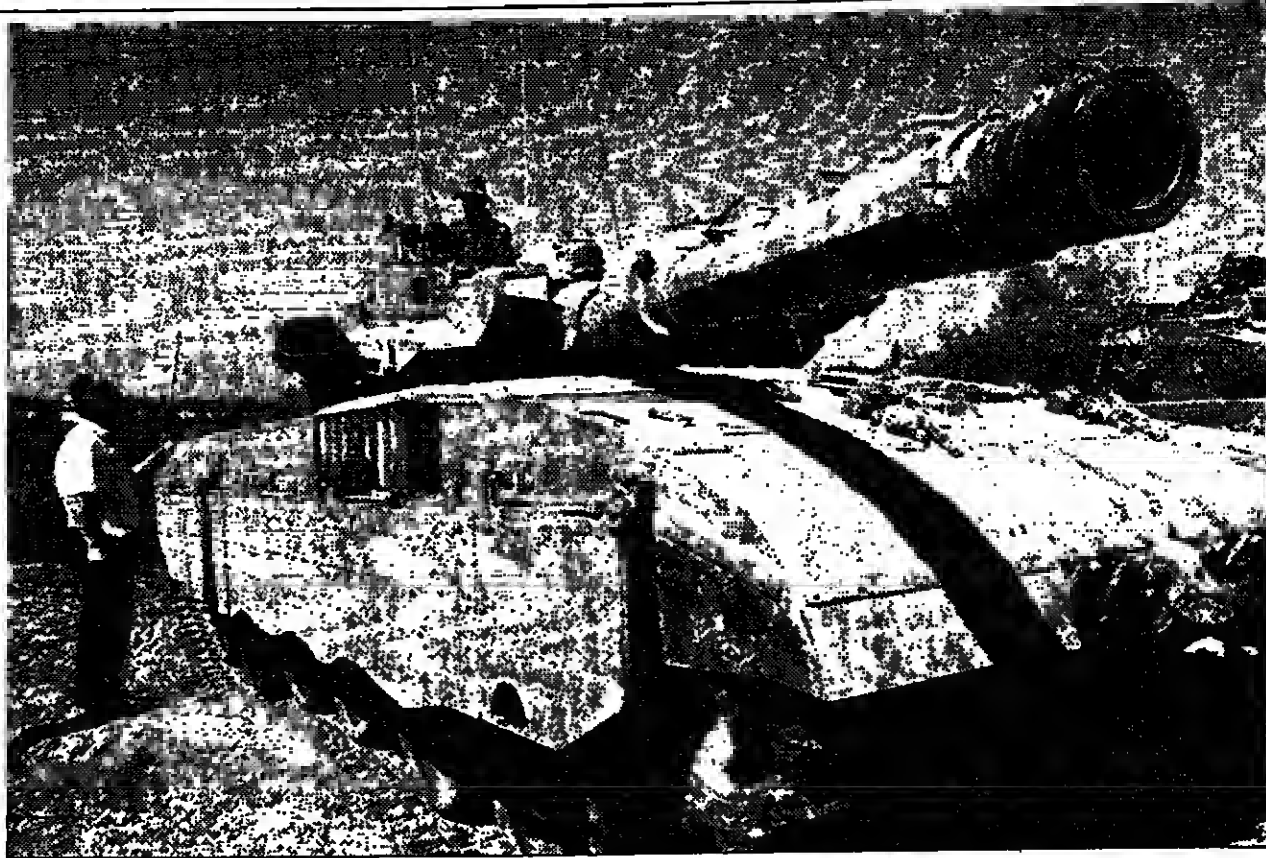
The resolutions call for withdrawal of Turkey's estimated 35,000 troops and its 50,000 mainland settlers from the north of Cyprus, and the return of refugees who fled in 1974.

Turkey and northern Cyprus say the troops are necessary to keep the Turkish Cypriots from being dominated by Greek Cypriots, who account for about 80 per cent of the island's population.

Mr. Clerides, who welcomed Mr. Simitis at Larnaca airport, said his visit "on the day of our independence anniversary is one more indication of the support Greece gives to the struggling Hellenism of Cyprus."

The Cypriot president had warned on Monday that the continuing division of his war-split island might spark a conflict between Greece and Turkey.

The prolongation of the Turkish occupation of the north, he said, "is fraught with the serious dangers of making partition permanent and also triggering a military flare-up on the island, which could escalate into a conflict between Greece and Turkey."



SIEGE: A religious Jew holds up the "four species" of plants wrapped together as he offers an Israeli tank crew the opportunity to say a special prayer for the Sukkot holiday on a base along the border with the Gaza Strip on Tuesday. Israel moved in Merkava tanks and armoured personnel carriers in a show of strength in case violent clashes resume in the Gaza Strip near the Jewish settlement area of Gush Katif (Reuters photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Yemen, Eritrea agree on arbitration

PARIS (R) — Yemen and Eritrea have agreed to go to an arbitration court to solve their territorial dispute over Red Sea islands, the French foreign ministry which mediated in the row said on Tuesday. It said the two sides would sign a compromise on Thursday in Paris creating an arbitration court. "The two sides agreed on all the provisions of an arbitration compromise creating an arbitration court to settle their dispute," the ministry said. Yemen and African Eritrea, facing each other across the Red Sea, both claim sovereignty over the small, Arid Hanish islands. The dispute triggered clashes which killed at least 12 people last December. France mediated in the dispute, and Egypt and Ethiopia also exerted mediation efforts to end the conflict. The islands are near vital shipping lanes used by more than 100 ships daily carrying 125,000 barrels of oil shipped by Gulf producers to customers in Europe via Egypt's Suez Canal.

Cairo traffic comes to halt

CAIRO (AP) — Downtown Cairo traffic came to a virtual standstill Tuesday as a visit by President Hosni Mubarak shut down the city's metro system, stranding tens of thousands of people. Mr. Mubarak's visit to a new station at Ramses square also blocked road traffic as security men closed off main streets through one of the city's busiest squares. Buses and taxis, crammed with people, were stuck in traffic for hours. As the traffic jam lengthened, tempers started to fray in the late morning heat, and thousands of horns blared in frustration. The metro, which carries about 500,000 passengers daily, was closed to the public as of 7 a.m. (0500 GMT), even though Mr. Mubarak did not arrive at the station for the ceremonies inaugurating a new metro line until shortly before 9 a.m. (0700 GMT). Ramses Square is also the main terminal for Egypt's extensive railway system.

Israel lifts restrictions on journalists

TEL AVIV (AP) — The army revoked an order Tuesday barring Israeli journalists from Palestinian-run areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the restrictions were harshly criticised. The army had justified the ban on Israeli journalists by saying it could no longer guarantee their safety after several reporters were wounded in last week's Israeli-Palestinian fighting. Journalists criticised the order as undemocratic and said it could create a slanted report by forcing the Israeli media to count on Palestinian reports. On Tuesday, the army said Israeli journalists who coordinated their visits to autonomous areas with the Palestinian Authority and were met at checkpoints by Palestinian officials would be allowed to pass. Israel radio reporter Carmela Menashe said reporters were told the ban was lifted after reappraisal of the situation, but said pressure from journalists was likely taken into account in the decision. Although the ban was supposed to apply only to Israelis, reporters carrying foreign passports also encountered problems travelling in the West Bank on Monday.

Turkey rejects U.S. criticism of Erbakan's visit to Libya

ANKARA (R) — Turkey on Tuesday dismissed United States criticism of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's imminent visit to Libya, a country which Washington considers a state sponsor of terrorism.

"Turkey is a sovereign country. Turkey's prime minister can decide for himself which country he will visit. We are looking after our own interests," State Minister Abdullah Gul told a news conference.

Mr. Erbakan is to visit Tripoli for two days on Friday as part of a six-day foreign tour which begins on Wednesday in Egypt and ends in Nigeria next week. But he made no mention of the Libya visit when he spoke to members of his Welfare Party on Tuesday about the foreign trip.

Few foreign leaders have visited Tripoli since the United Nations imposed an air and limited trade embargo on Libya in 1991 for its refusal to hand over two Libyans suspected of blowing up a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988.

The Libya visit and reports that Mr. Erbakan plans to invite Sudanese President

Omar Hassan Al Bashir to Turkey have raised concern among U.S. officials this week.

"We certainly would have concern about any country normalising relations with Sudan and Libya," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said on Monday in reference to Mr. Erbakan's visit.

"Sudan is a state sponsor of terrorism. Libya is responsible for the murder of hundreds of Americans on Pan Am Flight 103. And we haven't forgotten that. We know that the Libyans are harbouring two individuals who are responsible for that bombing," Mr. Burns added.

Turkish trade officials have already arrived in Tripoli to seek Libya's payment of outstanding debts of up to \$365 million due to Turkish building contractors.

An earlier trip by Mr. Erbakan to Iran worried Turkey's Western allies, who feared he would move Turkey away from the West. While in Tehran, Mr. Erbakan sealed a \$20 billion gas deal despite a U.S. bill punishing companies investing in gas projects in Iran or Libya.

Adonis on list for Nobel Prize

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The winner of this year's Nobel Prize for Literature will be announced on Thursday in Stockholm by Sweden's Royal Academy. The academy confirmed on Tuesday. Permanent Secretary Sture Allen will publicly announce the name of the winner or winners at 1:00 p.m. (1100 GMT) at the academy's headquarters. The Syrian poet, Ali Ahmad

Said, known by the pen name Adonis, is among the candidates for this year's prize.

The winners of the other Nobel prizes for 1996 will be announced between Oct. 7 and 11, in line with a schedule published in August which confirmed all but the date for the literature prize.

Earlier reports had expected the Nobel Prize for Literature to be announced on Oct. 10.

PKK in major attacks

MADEN, Turkey (Agencies) — Kurdish rebels, challenging a major Turkish offensive, killed nine people and wounded 16 others in a surge of overnight attacks on civilian targets, news reports said Tuesday.

The rebels raked a coffee house with gunfire in this town in eastern Turkey, killing two civilians and wounding 16 others, including six policemen, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said.

The policemen were on duty but apparently enjoying a break at the coffee house at the time of the raid.

Maden lies 770 kilometres east of Ankara. In two separate attacks in southeastern Diyarbakir province, the rebels killed three elementary school teachers in Hantep village and three private guards at a dam, the agency said.

The guerrillas target teachers in an effort to disrupt the state education system in the Kurdish-dominated south-east. They have killed over 50 teachers and burned down several schools in the past three years.

The Kurdish language is banned in education and broadcasting.

The attacks followed a major army crackdown on Kurdish rebels in Turkey's southeast, and was seen as a show of strength by the rebels.

Last week the Turkish general staff announced that 1,000 rebels were killed in the past one month.

Kurdish guerrillas have been fighting for autonomy in Turkey's southeast since 1984. The war has killed more than 20,000 people.

Security officials said a group of rebels seized six teachers from their homes in the village of Hantep early in the morning, took them to the countryside 10 kilometres away and shot three of them dead. They released the other three, the officials told Reuters.

Two of the dead were a married couple, the officials said.

The rebels say they target teachers because they symbolise the forced assimilation of Kurdish children into Turkish culture.

The human rights group Amnesty International said in a report released on Tuesday that the rebels have killed 90 teachers since they took up arms in 1984.

The latest attack came just over a week after children in Turkey returned to school following the summer break. The rebels have not killed any teachers for more than a year.

Shamir: No Palestinian state

GENEVA (R) — Former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Tuesday there should never be a Palestinian state on territory held by Israel and there was no reason for Israeli settlers to leave the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Shamir, whose right-wing administration took part in negotiations for a Middle East peace launched in Madrid by the big powers in October 1991, also told a news conference that he saw no peace process presently under way in the region.

"It was always the dream of the Israeli people to have a state of our own.... It is not our job to provide the Palestinians with a state," said the former leader of the Likud Party of current Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"There are more than 20 Arab countries in the Middle East. If a Palestinian wants to live in an Arab

state, he can go to any one of them," he added.

Mr. Shamir, who said he was no longer involved in political affairs, told the news conference organised by the Swiss branch of the Likud that he was currently working to set up a new Jewish youth foundation in Jerusalem's Old City.

He made no direct comment on last week's violence pitting Israeli troops against demonstrators which led to the calling of a summit in Washington to try to rescue the peace process in the region.

But he said he did not recognise as a peace process the series of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians that emerged from the Oslo accords and the Washington declaration of principles between Israel and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of September 1993.

"I do not accept the

(Oslo) agreements. They do not respond to the real needs of our country," he declared, insisting he was expressing his personal opinion.

"One cannot consider an agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) a formal agreement between states, since the PLO is not a state," Mr. Shamir said.

"What we have now and what is facing our country is not a peace process, because there is a big difference between the position of the Palestinians and their sympathisers and the Israeli position."

He said he would like to see a return to the Madrid process, which was superseded after it ran into difficulties by the long-secret Oslo negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israeli Labour government that replaced him in early 1993.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:20Flintstones
15:45The Adventures
16:10The Announcer
16:30Kelly
16:30Earth Revealed
17:00News
Flash
17:02Document — La
France Aux 1000 Villages
17:30Varieties — L'ivite
De Marque
18:00Document — Les
Enfants Du Voyage
19:00Le Journal
19:15Magazine — Sport Et
Musique
19:30News
Headlines
19:35The Four Seasons
20:00Super Stars of Action
20:30Chancer
21:10Hunter
22:00News in English
22:25The Bold Andthe
Beautiful
23:10Hart to Hart

PRAYER TIMES

04:09Fajr
05:26(Sunrise)Duha
11:25Dhuhr
14:48Asr
17:25Maghreb
18:42Ish a

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth
Church Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 632785.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation

Tel. 637440.

De la Salle Church Tel.

661757.

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church

Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church

Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Amman International

Church Tel. 827126

Evangelical Lutheran

Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.

654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.

675691.

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin

Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the
Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to
rise slightly with winds south-
easterly moderate to active. In
Aqaba, it will be dusty. Winds
northerly moderate to active
and seas calm.

Amman15/31

Aqaba23/36

Deserts14/33

Jordan Valley20/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 30, Aqaba 35 Humid-

ity readings: Amman 30 per

cent. Aqaba 29 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197

Dr. Afif Shukri898863

Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh827195

Dr. Sa'id Tawfiq

.....788285

Firas pharmacy661912

Ferdows pharmacy890280

Al Asema pharmacy637055

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairokh pharmacy623672

Najib pharmacy847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'amneh 250080

636381

Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Yousef Harzallah 988075

Khalfeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department

661111

Civil Defence Immediate

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency

199

Rescue Police 192. 621111.

637777

Fire Brigade617101

Blood Bank775121

Highway Police843402

Traffic Police896390

Public Security Department

630321

Hotel Complaints605800

Price Complaints661176

Water and Sewerage Com-

plaints897467

Amman Municipality Com-

plaints787111

Telephone Information

(directory assistance)121

Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs

661101

Jordan Television773111

Radio Jordan774111

Water Authority680100

Jordan Electricity Authority

815615

Electric Power Company

636381

RJ Flight Information 08-

53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-

53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre

813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity

642362

Malhas, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shmeisani

607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musabher Hospital

66727/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3

Al-Bashir775111/26

Army, Marka891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital

602240/

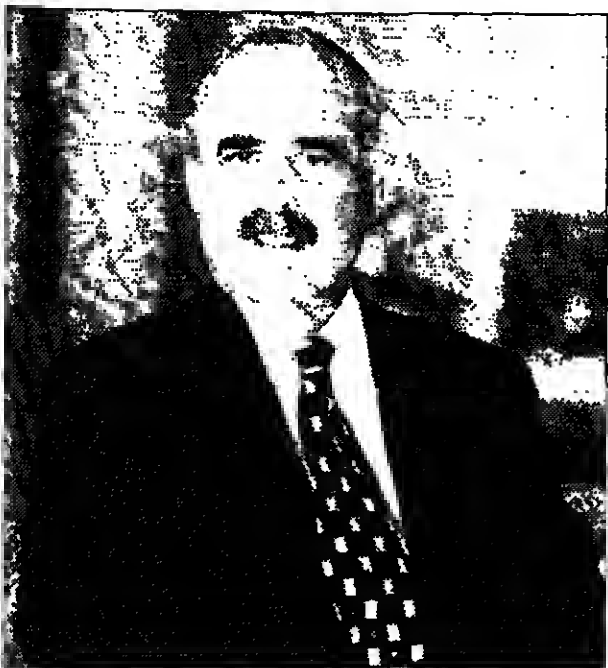
Prince Mohammad celebrates 56th birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Prince Mohammad Ben Talal, the personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein, celebrates his 56th birthday today.

Born in Amman on Oct. 2, 1940 Prince Mohammad was educated at the Islamic College in Amman and pursued higher studies in Switzerland and Britain. Subsequently he studied at the military college in Baghdad between 1956 and 1957, after which he joined the special Royal Guard before becoming the King's military aide.

Prince Mohammad was president of both the Jordanian Tribal Chiefs Council in 1971 and the Higher Tourism Council in 1972, and currently directs the Jordanian Shooting Federation, the Royal Shooting Club and the Jordan Chess Federation.

Prince Mohammad married Princess Taghrid in



1981. Both his sons are in the service of His Majesty King Hussein: HRH Prince Talal is the King's military secretary and director of the National Security Council, and HRH Prince Ghazi is the King's cultural secretary.

50 firms finalise contracts in Yemen

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Trade Association (JTA) Tuesday announced that 50 local firms have finalised contracts with various Yemeni companies to market Jordanian products in Yemen.

A total of 100 businesses and factories had been displaying products in a week-long trade fair in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa.

The fair aimed at promoting Jordanian products abroad, said JTA Executive Director Halim Abu Rahmeb, upon his return.

He also affirmed that a Jordanian firm, the Arab Company for the Manu-

facture of Metal Pipes, concluded a contract for the export of products to Yemen at the rate of \$5 million annually for an unspecified number of years.

The trade fair in Yemen was designed to introduce Jordanian products to the Yemeni market and familiarise the Yemeni people with the Kingdom's industrial and other products, Mr. Abu Rahmeb said.

During the fair, merchants and businessmen from both countries held a series of meetings and discussed forming a joint committee grouping pri-

vate sectors to facilitate the implementation of these agreements, and deal with issues such as customs duty exemptions, in order to facilitate the flow of trade between Jordan and Yemen, he added.

The fair was organised by the JTA in conjunction with the Jordanian Commercial Centre in Sanaa, according to Ahmad Slaghi, deputy minister of supply and trade in Yemen who opened the fair.

He said that Yemen and Jordan have gone a long way towards enhancing bilateral trade in line with pan-Arab goals to create an Arab common market.

Paris Club to reschedule Jordan's debts of \$308m

Accord reached in line with the Kingdom's adherence to restructuring programme

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Paris Club of creditor governments have reached agreement on rescheduling \$308 million of the Kingdom's official debts, the Ministry of Finance said Tuesday.

The agreement is part of an accord that covers \$1,101 million in Jordanian debts to the Paris Club and raises to more than \$3 billion the total rescheduled official debts under three agreements reached with creditor governments since 1989.

Total Jordanian debts to creditor governments and state-guided credit guarantee agencies in the Paris Club, including the rescheduled amount,

stood at about \$4.4 billion at the end of 1996, according to the latest bulletin of the Central Bank of Jordan.

Secretary-general of the ministry Suleiman Hafez in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the latest agreement was reached on Sept. 17 and covered debt repayments — \$250 million in principal and \$58 million in interest — due for the period from July 1996 to May 1997. It was not immediately known whether any immediate payment had to be made as part of the accord.

Repayments will start in June 1999 and cover a period of 15 years.

Rescheduling was made possible upon certification by the International

Monetary Fund (IMF) asserting that Jordan was adhering to the measures called for in a restructuring programme agreed with the IMF.

Officials have noted that the IMF would not have issued such certification if the government had not lifted the subsidies on wheat and animal feed in a conceptual move that eliminates state support for bread and fodder (the actual amount of state subsidy is now rechanneled in the form of direct cash compensation to Jordanian nationals).

According to Central Bank of Jordan figures, Jordan's external debts stood on Dec. 31, 1996 as under:

Arab governments — JD 360 million (among them: bilateral loans JD

31.9 million, the Saudi Development Fund JD120.3 million and the Iraqi Development Fund JD2 million).

Industrial countries (governments) — JD1,775 million (among them: Germany JD401.3 million, France JD108.2 million, Japan JD 1,112 million and the U.S. JD75 million).

Industrial countries (credit guarantee agencies) — JD1,380 million (among them: Germany JD15.4 million, France 446.2 million, Japan JD 291.9 million, The United Kingdom JD394 million and the United States JD 53.6 million).

Other governments — JD 28 million.

Foreign banks — JD115 million.

Foreign companies —

JD20.2 million.

Multilateral institutions — JD1,517.4 million (among them the IMF JD178 million, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development JD662 million, the European Investment Bank JD181.6 million, the Islamic Development Bank JD104.6 million, the Arab Monetary Fund JD42.1 million, and the Arab Fund for Economic Development JD 316.4 million).

Bonds JD141.9 million.

Leasing contracts — JD 174 million.

All outstanding external debts amounted to JD 4,465 million.

Society marks seniors' day

AMMAN (Petra) — The White Beds Society (WBS) which runs the Home for the Aged in Jweideh, Tuesday marked International Senior Citizens Day.

The event was attended by Minister of Social Development Hamad Abu Jamous and other officials from the Ministry of Health.

Mr. Abu Jamous expressed appreciation for the organisation's caretaking and stated that the Ministry of Social Development has been providing an annual JD 40,000 to JD50,000 to the facility to help cater to seniors' needs and accommodation.

The WBS, which was established in 1971 to care for the elderly, was formerly inaugurated by His Majesty King Hussein in 1978, according to Ministry of Social Development officials.

In an address at the ceremony, WBS President Isa'at Shuqair paid tribute to the ongoing cooperation between the ministry and the society, under which, at any given time, the society hosts 45 senior citizens, referred by the ministry.

She said that the home is attended by a resident doctor who is assisted by nurses and a social worker in addition to other staff who perform various and sundry tasks.

Ms. Shuqair maintains close cooperation with the Ministry of Health and public hospitals for further intensive treatment when necessary.

At the ceremony a group of Japanese women performed national Japanese and Jordanian folkloric dances.

The annual observation of International Senior Citizens Day on Oct. 1 was implemented by the U.N. General Assembly which has also named 1999 as Senior Citizen's Year "in recognition of humanity's demographic coming of age and the promise it holds for mapping attitudes and capabilities in social, economic, cultural and spiritual undertakings."

Minister reaffirms commitment to environmental protection

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irshaidat Tuesday reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to implementing requirements set by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for the protection and restoration of archaeological sites.

In a lecture delivered at Regency Palace Hotel, the minister said that Jordan does not develop its tourist industry at the expense of archaeological sites, the country's national heritage or the environment.

Noting that archaeologists from 19 different countries are currently conducting restoration or excavation work in the Nabatean city of Petra, he said that specialists are maintaining close coordination with the Ministry of Tourism.

Mr. Irshaidat also stated that the ministry has made ambitious plans for tourist development.

Jordan has three major transportation companies but hotels have not yet been able to achieve full occupancy rates, he added, and called for increased efforts on the part of the private sector to contribute to national efforts in boosting the tourist industry.

Dr. Irshaidat said the government is attempting to meet the needs of the tourist sector by training qualified people at hotel

management colleges, instructing tourist guides and encouraging construction of hotels and transportation.

The minister expressed optimism that the newly



established Jordan Tourism Board will motivate the private sector to further boost the industry. He said that last year's tourist revenues amounted to \$700 million and thus equivalent to 50 per cent of the total revenues accruing from annual exports.

The minister Sunday addressed a meeting convened to debate obstacles in tourism, maintaining that a recent decline in tourism is due to political developments in the Middle East.

However, he said, Jordan expects further investments in the Kingdom to cater to an anticipated tourism boom in the peace era.

Lebanon, Jordan firm produce contract; set immediate timetable

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat announced upon his return to Amman from Beirut Tuesday that Jordan and Lebanon have agreed to organise the exchange of agricultural products and have set a timetable effective immediately.

This agreement was concluded in talks held with the Lebanese minister of agriculture and other Lebanese officials last week.

Under the agreement Lebanon and Jordan will grant each other, prefer-

ential treatment in the import and export of agricultural products and priority in trade, depending on availability, said Dr. Shneikat.

According to the agreement, Jordan will export tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplants, squash, green beans, watermelons and onions during fixed annual periods.

In exchange Lebanon will export potatoes, oranges, lemons, grapes, apples, pears, loquats and peanuts according to another timetable.

Mr. Shneikat said the produce will

be exempt from customs duty on both sides if exported or imported within the agreed upon timetables.

The two sides agreed to hold another meeting in July 1997 in order to assess the exchange timetable.

Representatives of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation and the Jordanian Society of Producers and Exporters of Fruits and Vegetables accompanied the minister to his talks with the Lebanese government.



HRH PRINCESS BASMA MEETS WITH COMMITTEE: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday receives the Jordanian Women's Union Executive Committee in her office. The meeting aims to coordinate efforts to strengthen cooperation between the committee and non-governmental organisations (Petra photo)

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- * Works by Ghada Dahdaleh at the French Cultural Centre, until Oct. 29.
- * "The Fifth One-Dimension Exhibition" by several artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery, Mecca Street (Tel. 862105), until Oct. 10.
- * Works by Mohammad Al Jalooz at Baladna Art Gallery, entitled "Pathetic" at Gardens Street (Tel. 687598), until Oct. 3.
- * Basketry exhibition (with a variety of wrought iron furniture mixed with basketry) at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 699141/2), until Oct. 10.
- * "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funn, Jabal Weibdeh (including ceramic sculptures by Vera Tammari, photographs of Jordanian villages by Ammar Khammash, works by contemporary Arab artists, a mosaic exhibition, and others), until Oct. 8.

Save water...
every drop counts

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jordan, Sudan sign health agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Sudan Monday signed a health cooperation agreement stipulating the exchange of health and medical expertise, according to Ministry of Health Secretary General Hashem Jaddou. Under the agreement, signed in Khartoum, Jordan will provide expertise in the management of endemic diseases and diagnostic X-ray analysis to Sudan and will train Sudanese nurses. Dr. Jaddou returned to Amman late Monday after a several-day visit during which he held talks with senior Sudanese health officials on means of enhancing bilateral relations in the health field.

RJ, TWA to collaborate on int'l flights

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) and Trans-World Airlines (TWA) Tuesday signed an air transportation agreement, under which both airlines will launch joint flights between the United States, Jordan and Holland. The flights will cover Amman, Amsterdam, New York, Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles, according to RJ President and Chief Executive Officer Nader Dahabi. The agreement was signed for RJ by Mr. Dahabi and for TWA by its Chief Executive Officer Mr. Jeffrey Ericson.

House to participate in Global Food Conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament's Permanent Office Tuesday met under the chairmanship of House Speaker Sa'ad Hayel Srour and opted for the House's participation in the Global Food Conference which will convene in Italy from Oct. 13 to 17 according to

Parliament Secretary General Mohammad Masalha. He said the office approved House participation in another international symposium regarding security, political and economic dialogue in the Mediterranean region, to be held in Lisbon in December. The House will also contribute to a special parliamentary committee in charge of following up on Arab-African dialogue, due to assemble in Mali on Oct. 14 and 15.

King Hussein Bridge closed indefinitely

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Hussein bridge on the River Jordan Tuesday was indefinitely closed to traffic to and from Gaza, according to Public Security department sources.

Book fair to open Oct. 7

AMMAN (Petra) — A 10-day international book exhibition will open here on Monday, Oct. 7, according to Minister of Culture Ahmad Qudus. A total of 203 publishing houses, including 52 from Jordan, 36 from Europe and The United States, 39 from Egypt and 39 from Lebanon will participate in the event.

Road accidents claim 14 lives in last week of Sept.

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 14 citizens were killed and 318 injured in 749 road accidents during the last week of September, according to Traffic Department sources. They broke down the statistic as follows: 26.2 per cent of the victims were in the age range of 21-30 and 24.4 per cent were 10 years old or younger. Tailgating accounted for 13.5 per cent of the total accidents followed by failure to yield to pedestrians accounting for 11.1 per cent of the total accident number.

Bypass risky and useless for Yeltsin heart condition — report

MOSCOW (AFP) — The condition of Russian President Boris Yeltsin's heart, weakened by restricted blood flow, will render bypass surgery not only dangerous but possibly useless, the weekly Itogi newspaper said in its latest edition Tuesday.

Quoting top heart specialists and other medical sources, Itogi said that even with the six to 10 weeks' extra preparation which Mr. Yeltsin has been given by his doctors, his heart still may not be in a fit state to cope with surgery.

The report came amid persistent calls by opposition leaders for the Russian president to step down and call for fresh presidential elections.

Itogi said Mr. Yeltsin's heart muscles and the organ's left ventricle had been damaged by ischaemic cardiomyopathy, a condition whereby restricted blood supply to the heart damages the organ's muscles and hence its ability to pump blood.

As a result of the condition, doctors found during

tests in the middle of August that Mr. Yeltsin's left ventricle was pumping just 23 per cent of blood from the heart, a work rate far below the "dangerous" level of 40 per cent, medical sources told Itogi.

"If they brought me a patient of the street with a rate of less than 40 per cent I would be unlikely to carry out bypass surgery on him of my own free will," heart expert Professor Boris Shabalkin of the Centre for Surgical Research told the weekly.

Itogi's editor Sergei Parkhomenko interviewed the sources after pioneering U.S. bypass surgeon Michael Dehaakey said last week that an improvement in the condition of Mr. Yeltsin's heart could enable him to break the 40-per cent threshold by the time of the operation.

Mr. Parkhomenko's sources said they were "astounded" by the statement, he told AFP. They said a work rate of 27 per cent was the best that could be hoped for, a rate which would make bypass surgery inadvisable.

And the revelation that the president is suffering from cardiomyopathy could render the surgery useless anyway, as the bypass operation merely enables blood to circumvent a blockage in an artery and can generally do little for damaged heart muscles or a weakened left ventricle.

Mr. Yeltsin has a history of heart trouble. He has been diagnosed as suffering from ischaemia — the restriction of blood flow to the heart — and has suffered a series of heart attacks, the latest of which reportedly occurred shortly before his reelection in July.

Opposition figures are furious that the Russian electorate were not aware at the time of the full gravity of Mr. Yeltsin's condition, and have called for him to stand down.

On Monday his defeated rival in the July election, Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, said the country needed a more robust leader at a critical time in its history and warned that even with successful surgery Mr. Yeltsin

could be incapacitated well into next year.

On Tuesday however, Mr. Zyuganov's parliamentary ally, Agrarian Party leader Mikhail Lapsin said Mr. Yeltsin should not stand down, but should start carrying out the numerous promises he made to voters during the electoral campaign.

The Russian president has drastically cut back his work schedule as a result of his condition. On Tuesday he held his weekly meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, discussing economic issues, in particular the financing of the Russian army, the presidential press service said.

The Yeltsin diagnosis explains why surgeons were reluctant to rush into bypass surgery and wanted to give Mr. Yeltsin's heart time to improve.

Professor Renat Akchurin, the head of the team of surgeons who will operate on the Russian president, said Sunday that the heart muscle was getting stronger, thereby reducing the risk on the operation.

Lebed to report to parliament on Chechnya peace process

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia's chief peace negotiator in Chechnya, security chief Alexander Lebed, will report on the situation in the breakaway republic to the lower house of parliament Wednesday, ITAR-TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

Gen. Lebed's report to the State Duma will be accompanied by reports from Defence and Interior Ministry officials.

The two ministries began withdrawing their troops from Chechnya in early September, in line with a peace accord which Gen. Lebed signed with Chechen separatist rebel leaders on Aug. 31.

The Russian federal command said 11,000 Defence Ministry troops were expected to leave Chechnya this month, and the more numerous Interior Ministry forces were due to start withdrawing before mid-October.

Separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev is expected in Moscow this week for talks on forming a coalition government in Chechnya, where a ceasefire has been holding for more than a month.

A Russian government spokesman said Mr. Yandarbiyev may meet Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, who will return from Switzerland late Wednesday.

Mr. Chernomyrdin and Gen. Lebed discussed plans Monday to bolster peace in Chechnya by establishing a coalition government in the region.

But more than 90 parliamentary deputies underscored their opposition to the peace process, questioning the constitutionality of an agreement signed on Aug. 31 between Gen. Lebed and Chechen rebel Chief of Staff Aslan

Maskhadov. ITAR-TASS said Gen. Lebed informed Mr. Chernomyrdin about preparations for a new round of peace talks in Moscow this week with Chechen separatist representatives.

But it was not clear if Mr. Yandarbiyev would take part in the meeting, scheduled for Oct. 1-5 and aimed at consolidating the peace accord signed in the southern town of Khasavyurt.

TASS said Mr. Chernomyrdin and Gen. Lebed discussed a planned coalition government, preparations for elections, financial support for the region and Russian troop withdrawals, which some rebel leaders say are going too slowly for their liking.

The peace deal, which ended 21 months of war, followed a series of humiliating defeats for Russian troops. It has been condemned as capitulation to the rebels by some Russian officials, including powerful Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov.

The deal postponed a decision on Chechnya's future political status, but some Russian politicians say it could lead to Chechnya seceding, which would go against the Russian constitution and might set a precedent for other regions.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, who will stand in for President Boris Yeltsin when he undergoes heart surgery later this year, has said that the territorial integrity of Russia remains sacrosanct.

Interfax News Agency said 93 deputies in the 450-seat State Duma lower chamber of parliament signed a petition asking the Constitutional Court to consider the implications of the Khasavyurt agreement.

The Russian-Chechen talks in Moscow this week

are expected to focus on the composition of a coalition government. The main question mark hangs over who would lead such a government.

The separatist side are unlikely to accept the present pro-Moscow Chechen leader Dokku Zavgayev whom they brand as a puppet elected as a result of massive ballot-rigging.

A meeting of Chechen social and political organisations in the north Caucasus region of Kabardino-Balkaria put forward its candidate at the weekend.

TASS said 124 delegates nominated Adam-Shamal Deniyev, the 35-year-old leader of a little-known organisation called "the Government for Salvation of the Chechen People."

Mr. Deniyev is from the village of Avtura in the Shalt region of Chechnya, just south of the capital Grozny.

He is virtually unknown outside of Chechnya, but TASS quoted a source in Chechnya's pro-Moscow administration as saying he had "more influence and hidden levers of power in Chechnya than Yandarbiyev and Maskhadov combined."

Former Russian parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, an ethnic Chechen now heading a group of advisers to Mr. Yandarbiyev, told Reuters he had proposed to Gen. Lebed a candidate to head the coalition government. But he declined to name his choice.

Mr. Khasbulatov said Gen. Lebed tried to make a case for another person taking the job. "Perhaps you would (take the position)," Mr. Khasbulatov quoted Gen. Lebed as saying. "But I said we are not talking about me. I named another person."

Russian defence minister frets over army crisis

MOSCOW (R) — Russian Defence Minister Igor Rodionov appealed to President Boris Yeltsin Tuesday for extra money to ease a crisis in the army and said the situation there was becoming unbearable.

Gen. Rodionov has played down any talk of a rebellion in the armed forces, but he told a news conference that a lack of funding could lead to uncontrollable processes which could weaken Russia's combat readiness.

"I appeal to society, the president, the government and parliament. We must find a way out of this extremely difficult and critical situation which the army is in today because of the lack of funding," he said.

He called for a backlog of wages to be paid by the state, adding: "The situation is becoming unbearable."

The army, the pride of Soviet society, has suffered from underfunding and low morale since the superpower fell apart and many soldiers have not been paid for months.

Security chief Alexander Lebed, who sacked Rodionov's appointment as Russian defence minister, said last week that the army was close to mutiny because of frustration at government negligence and unpaid wages.

Gen. Rodionov said at the time that the situation was under control, but he made clear Tuesday that the armed forces faced a deep crisis.

"In short, the Defence Ministry regards the situation as controllable and manageable but the armed forces are going through a period of sharp crisis," he said.

He said the main problems included the lack of funding, long delays in personnel being paid by the state and a tendency towards a decline in combat readiness. Under current budget plans, the army would face another tough year in 1997, he said.

Gen. Rodionov supported plans to create a fully professional army but said the lack of finances meant it would take longer than planned and could be completed only by the year 2000.

He said the aim was to cut the armed forces from about 1.5 million now to 1.2 million.



Former Rhodesian special forces soldier Anthony White is shown in this undated file photo. South African Dirk Coetzee, self confessed leader of an apartheid-era hit squad, told journalists that he had heard that Mr. White carried out the murder of Swedish Prime Minister Olaf Palme in 1986. White dismissed the allegations as "nebulous and far-fetched" (Reuter photo)

Palme murder investigators deny reopening of case

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Sweden's Deputy Prosecutor General Solveig Riberdahl Tuesday denied that investigators were considering reopening the case against a Swede acquitted of assassinating Premier Olof Palme in 1986.

The daily Svenska Dagbladet had reported Tuesday that authorities are investigating reports that South African apartheid agents were involved in the killing, but added that they have received new information on Christer Pettersson's involvement.

Denying the report that prosecutors were discussing whether to reopen the case, Mr. Riberdahl said: "We are continually analysing the situation regarding Christer Pettersson. So far, we have received nothing new that would allow us to request that the case be reopened."

Mr. Pettersson, a 49-year-old outcast and alcohol and drug abuser, was convicted and sentenced to life in prison in July 1989 for the murder, but was acquitted by an appeals court and

released four months later for lack of evidence.

Mr. Palme was gunned down on a Stockholm street on Feb. 28, 1986.

Svenska Dagbladet reported that investigators are taking seriously the information provided by two sources last spring.

A witness, whose identity has not been revealed but is referred to as "the Chevy man" because he witnessed the murder while parked in his Chevrolet, said last spring that he was "95 per cent sure" that Christer Pettersson was the killer. The man told investigators he had not positively identified Pettersson in previous interrogations because he feared for his life.

A second witness, Sigge Cedergren, also changed his testimony last spring just before his death. Mr. Cedergren, a former night club owner who was Mr. Pettersson's drug dealer and who is now dead, told police while on his deathbed that he had supplied Pettersson with the gun, but had not known of Pettersson's inten-

tions. The murder weapon, a Smith and Wesson .357 Magnum, has never been found.

In addition to the two new revelations, "investigators have received further information that points to Mr. Pettersson. What that information is, no one with insight into the investigation wants to say," Svenska Dagbladet reported.

Convicted South African police assassin Eugene De Kock revealed at Pretoria Supreme Court last Thursday that South African apartheid operatives had been involved in the killing.

South African death squad leader Dirk Coetzee has since fingered Anthony White, a soldier in the former white army of Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe, as the killer.

Mr. White, who now lives and works in the Mozambican port city of Beira, has denied murdering Mr. Palme, who was a fierce opponent of apartheid.

Burma to release over 500 NLD detainees, but could clamp down again

RANGOON (AFP) — Burmese authorities said Tuesday that more than 500 supporters of Aung San Suu Kyi who were detained last week would soon be released, but warned they would crack down again if she again tried to build a party congress.

"Letting them go ahead with such meetings would have more serious ramifications, making it more difficult for the authorities to handle," Colonel Kyaw Win, deputy chief of military intelligence, told AFP.

Such pre-emptive action against the National League for Democracy (NLD) would be less damaging to the country than the negative publicity it attracted abroad, he said.

He was speaking after a government news conference, attended by foreign media, to outline official action over the past five days to prevent an NLD party congress by arresting more than 500 activists.

The clampdown also stopped Ms. Suu Kyi from holding the meet-the-public sessions previously held outside her Rangoon residence every weekend since her release last July.

Some of the NLD supporters who were detained could be subject to separate legal action, a senior military intelligence official, Colonel Kyaw Thein told reporters.

An estimated 30 activists detained prior to a party congress planned last May received prison terms of seven to 14 years.

Ms. Suu Kyi was free to come and go as she pleased, but the blockade outside her residence designed to prevent the congress, scheduled for Sept. 27-29, would remain, Police Colonel Ngwe Soe Tun said.

"So long as it is necessary for peace and tranquility, (the blockade) will remain there," he said.

The government's announcement came amid international outcry and calls for the immediate release of the detainees and the resumption of normal party activities.

Col. Kyaw Thein said that the 159 delegates to the planned congress who were picked up prior to its scheduled opening Friday had been held in guest houses and that some were on their way home "even as we speak."

Local police had picked up some 400 additional party officials and organisers, and they would be released in conformity with police practices, he said.

According to a government statement received in Bangkok, 88 of those held for questioning had returned home Monday morning.

NLD sources have estimated that as many as 800 of their supporters have been taken in for questioning by the police since Thursday.

The future of the weekend public gatherings held outside Ms. Suu Kyi's residence was in doubt, as officials accused NLD leaders of seeking to provoke violent demonstrations intended to bring down the government.

The meetings were illegal from the beginning, and the NLD politicians had not shown the patience needed while the military ensured a peaceful transition to multi-party democracy, Col. Kyaw Thein said.

Commenting on the junta's latest clampdown against Ms. Suu Kyi's supporters, he explained: "The steps taken (against the NLD) were necessary

to prevent street riots." "At her first conference ... she threatened dialogue ... utter devastation," he said.

The State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), as the junta is officially called, took power in 1988 after a bloody crackdown on nationwide pro-democracy demonstrations and later ignored the results of general elections in 1990, which the NLD won by a landslide.

"It is meaningless to shout at the top of their voice that those desiring democracy are being suppressed. Stability of the state and rule of law are of primary importance," a government account of the press briefing distributed by the Burmese embassy in Bangkok said.

Col. Kyaw Win told AFP: "By making a pre-emptive strike like we did ... people may see us as being repressive," but he said this was "less problematic in the long run."

He said Rangoon could not allow the NLD to hold a major meeting where such things as draft constitutions or resolutions could be adopted.

This risked leading Western nations such as the United States to believe the NLD action expressed the wishes of Burma's 45 million people and to "pressure the SLORC to take appropriate measures in the name of the 45 million," he said.

There has been international outcry at the latest SLORC clampdown. Britain, Canada and Japan Monday joined the U.S. and other countries in calling for the immediate release of the detainees and the resumption of normal party activities.

Dad commits suicide after son accused of bullying

TOKYO (Reuters) — A distraught father killed himself after his son was accused of taking part in the bullying of a classmate who committed suicide, Japanese police said Tuesday. The 45-year-old office worker had become increasingly depressed as details of the bullying came to light, local media reports said. He was found unconscious in the back yard of his home in the town of Chiran in the southern Japan prefecture of Kagoshima after swallowing fertilizer. He died in hospital. Police questioned the man last month in relation to the suicide of a 14-year-old boy who hanged himself on Sept. 18 and left a note pointing to the son as one of eight classmates who bullied him. "At the time of the questioning, the father didn't appear as if he was going to commit suicide...He was acting normally," the spokesman told Reuters. "We were still in the middle of investigating the boy's death... We really are sorry for the man and hope his soul rests in peace," the spokesman said. The spokesman refused to speculate on the reason for the man's suicide, saying investigations were still under way. Kyodo News Agency quoted the headmaster of the boys' school as saying: "I have heard the father was agonising over the bullying case." Kyodo quoted the dead boy's parents as saying the father visited them frequently after their son's funeral to apologise. According to an annual survey conducted by the Education Ministry, five children in Japan killed themselves as a result of school bullying last year. In the previous three years there were no reports of such deaths, the ministry said.

Mother gets 6 years' jail for child abuse

SINGAPORE (AFP) — A Singapore court has handed down a six-year prison term to a pregnant woman who abused her five-year-old daughter so badly for her being a slow eater that she became mentally retarded. "Offenders who assault defenceless children will not get any sympathy from the courts," Judge Syed Alwee, who sentenced 29-year-old Cindy Chandra, said in remarks published by the Sunday Times. Ms. Chandra, a housewife who is eight weeks pregnant with her third child, was given four years' jail for throwing her daughter Winnie Ho onto the floor and two years for burning her with a hair dryer. The judge sentenced her to an additional year for violently shaking the child, who is now in the care of foster parents appointed by the Ministry of Community Development, the Sunday Times said. The last sentence will run concurrently with the first two. Three other charges of hurting the child, who reportedly became mentally retarded because of the abuse, were taken into consideration. "The facts of this case disclose a serious case of child abuse," said the judge, who found that the mother's repeated abuse of her daughter aggravated her crimes and outweighed any mitigating circumstances.

Woman pregnant with 8 babies loses 3

LONDON (AFP) — A British woman who rejected medical advice to abort some of the eight fetuses she was carrying, Monday lost three of her babies and the future for the other five looked "bleak," her doctors said. Mandy Allwood, 32, had been warned by specialists that she faced a major risk of premature deliveries or miscarriage after deciding to go ahead with all eight babies.

Dutch queen soaks up culture on South African visit

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and her family spent the second day of their state visit to South Africa Tuesday soaking up culture at art galleries and theatres around Johannesburg.

Queen Beatrix, her husband Prince Claus and son Prince Willem Alexander, first toured an exhibition of 17th-century Dutch paintings, which has been mounted at the Johannesburg Art Gallery by the Netherlands Embassy.

The 58-year-old queen, dressed in a bright yellow two-piece suit and matching hat, spent the rest of the morning at the Newtown Cultural Precinct — a massive arts complex that is being developed on an old industrial site in downtown Johannesburg.

Queen Beatrix appeared undaunted by the early summer heat as she and her entourage walked the length of the complex visiting theatres, a print shop and a museum housing a reconstructed mine workers hostel.

The queen was presented with a collection of etchings by South African artists at the Newtown Artists Proof Studio and the royals were the guests of honour at a 30-minute dance recital by a local troupe that is funded by the Dutch government.

The Dutch government has given 12 million rand (\$2.64 million) to the development of performing and visual arts in South Africa in 1996 and 1997 and this funding is likely to increase, according to the Netherlands Embassy.

Queen Beatrix, the first Dutch head of state to visit South Africa, arrived for a

four-day state visit Monday. She is scheduled to host President Nelson Mandela Wednesday at a reception at the state theatre in Pretoria some 70 kilometres north of here.

Queen Beatrix and President Mandela Monday witnessed the signing in Pretoria of a key agreement aimed at enhancing centuries of strong language and cultural ties between South Africa and the Netherlands.

The treaty commits the two countries to cooperation in education, science, arts, culture, health, welfare and sport.

South Africa, whose first European colonisers were the Dutch in 1652, retains strong cultural ties with the Netherlands and it retains Afrikaans — a derivative of Dutch, Flemish, Malay and local dialects — as one of 11 official languages.

Holland opposed South Africa's apartheid government, with Dutch nationals holding numerous protests during the era against the white-minority government.

On Wednesday, the queen will visit officials of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which is probing apartheid-era abuses, as well as leaders of the South African Council of Churches.

The queen and her entourage of 29 business leaders will travel Thursday to Cape Town, visiting parliament and Stellenbosch University, and meeting with political leaders, before bosting a reception for the local Dutch community.

Queen Beatrix will spend three days on an unofficial tour in South Africa before the delegation returns to the Netherlands Sunday.

Sri Lanka rebels shell fallen town, escalate bush war

COLOMBO (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas Tuesday fired a barrage of mortar bombs at a former bastion now held by Sri Lankan security forces and stepped up hit-and-run revenge attacks, the Defence Ministry said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) pounded the northern town of Kilinochchi, the last town that was under their control, with long-range attacks but there were no casualties, the ministry said.

It said thousands of soldiers continued to clear mines left behind by the Tigers who were dislodged from the town Sunday, after a week-long battle that claimed the lives of 269 soldiers and 760 rebels by official count.

In a clear retaliatory attack, the Tigers ambushed an army patrol in the northern peninsula of Jaffna Monday, killing five troops and wounding two civilian bystanders, officials said.

They said the body of a Tiger attacker killed in the army's counter attack was also found in the area during a major search carried out by the security forces.

Within hours, the Tigers struck again in the same region, this time against a convoy of three buses taking constables to strengthen defences at Kilinochchi.

Four policemen were killed and 37 were wounded in the attack. "One of the buses took the full impact of the Claymore mine explosion," a ministry spokesman said.

"We can expect many more attacks like this," the spokesman said. "The Tigers are now desperate and are trying to hit us in populated areas to draw fire towards civilians."

The spokesman said that the army raided a suspected Tiger safe house in Jaffna Monday and killed four rebels and recovered four automatic weapons, two radio sets, ammunition and several maps from the victims.

The upsurge in violence came as the Tigers were forced to withdraw to the jungles in the island's north-east with no major town under their control.

Defence analysts said the military success in taking Kilinochchi, the town where the Tigers located their political headquarters after losing the Tamil capital of Jaffna in December, was fraught with serious dangers.

The government will be forced to commit between 15,000 to 20,000 troops to hold Kilinochchi and that would leave several other areas of the island's east as well as Jaffna more vulnerable.

Several majority Sinhalese and minority Muslim villages which have been favourite targets of Tamil Tiger attacks may come under renewed pressure after the Tigers were driven out of Kilinochchi, officials said.

Tension between the Tamils and Muslims was already building in the island's east after inter-communal clashes that claimed 13 lives over the weekend, officials said.

Tigers have been accused of killing thousands of Sinhalese and Muslims living in the north-eastern regions, where the Tamil rebels claim as their traditional homeland, in the past 13 years.

The need to provide static guard duties at village will bring more pressure on the army which is already facing an acute shortage of manpower and recent recruit drives have met with disappointing results.

More than 50,000 people have been killed in the protracted fighting in the past 23 years and military funerals in rural areas have become a common sight with the war affecting virtually all sections of society.

The economic costs of the fighting is also mounting pressure on living costs and the government raised the price of fuel over the week-end by as much as 30 per cent.



Labour leader Tony Blair acknowledges the applause of delegates before the start of the first day of the Labour Party Conference Monday (Reuters photo)

Blair to single out education as top priority

BLACKPOOL, England (AFP) — Opposition leader Tony Blair, seeking a lock on the mainstream voters he needs to win spring general elections, prepared Tuesday to single out educational reform as the top priority of a Labour government.

In a keynote speech here to the party's critical last conference before the elections, Mr. Blair was to target the transformation of Britain into "a skills superpower" through revolution in education, his aides said.

Arguing that Britain is falling behind global rivals, Mr. Blair would promise, they said, to "unleash the potential of all the British people" by setting three priorities — "education, education and education."

"Our task is not to stop people being successful but to help them and their families do better," the Daily Express quoted Mr. Blair as saying Monday night.

"That is the true radical mission of the Labour Party, new and old, not to hold people back but to help them get on." Education has been a sensitive issue for Mr. Blair, who, along with Labour's social security spokeswoman Harriet Harman, have been bitterly criticised for sending their children to exclusive state secondary schools not available to those of lesser means.

Mr. Blair was also expected to put the European Union at the centre of his general election campaign and to pledge a Labour government to a deadline of mid-1998 for the completion of the European Union's single market.

Still trying to reinforce his claim to speak for Britain's "radical center," Mr. Blair got support Tuesday from a new opinion poll indicating his leadership was a crucial factor in the party's enormous popularity.

Labour leads the Conservatives by a solid 27 points in all polls, and the Telegraph's Gallup survey showed the eloquent 43-year-old barrister who succeeded the late John Smith at the party's helm two years ago was the principal reason.

Labour, thirsting for power after 17 years in the opposition backwaters, already promised this week to legislate tax relief for the working poor and to tax windfall profits of utilities privatised by the Conservatives.

Although leading the Tories in the polls, Mr. Blair understands that Labour still needs to establish a solid appeal to a broad spectrum of the electorate, from unemployment lines to corporate board rooms.

Despite revolutionary left-to-centre changes Mr. Blair has engineered in two years, the party is still trying to shake free of its clinging socialist roots and image as the political wing of the trade unions that created it as their mouthpiece a century ago.

On Monday, shadow chancellor Gordon Brown promised to use a tax on utilities' windfall profits for jobs programmes, saying: "It is right that we employ the unfair profits ... to pay for a fair deal for the unemployed."

A Labour government, he said, would also lower bottom-end tax rates to give the working poor a break, and reiterated Labour's call for a national minimum wage, although, like Mr. Blair, he avoided specifying a figure.

Criticising the Conservatives' promise to abolish capital gains and inheritance taxes, Mr. Brown said, "my tax-cutting ambition is to lower the starting rate of tax ... to help everyone."

Patten to pull no punches in final H. Kong address

HONG KONG (R) — He may have only 273 days left in office but the 28th and last British governor of Hong Kong clearly has no intention of seeing them out quietly.

When Chris Patten steps up to the podium Wednesday to deliver his fifth "state of the colony" address, the last ever by a British governor in the territory, he will, aides promise, deliver a hard-hitting speech demonstrating he is no lame duck.

"It will be personal in tone and strongly political," a source close to government house said. "It will be both valedictory and visionary in nature."

Mr. Patten, a former British cabinet minister who provoked Chinese fury by spearheading democratic reforms and more open government in the twilight of British rule, is unlikely to be content merely to sum up his often controversial four-and-a-half-year stewardship of Hong Kong.

He intends to unveil new initiatives showing the British intend to govern right up to the stroke of midnight on June 30, 1997, when a

century and a half of colonial rule ends.

Mr. Patten's address to Hong Kong's legislative council will be televised live.

"The governor is to argue that he would be doing a disservice for Hong Kong if the government stopped making decisions," said the English-language South China Morning Post Tuesday.

The paper reported that Mr. Patten would announce "hundreds of new initiatives" in his 90-minute address, mainly concerning welfare, the environment and the economy.

The leaks have already caused some dismay, particularly in business and pro-Beijing circles, which have long advocated a policy of minimal change during the countdown.

"In looking to the future, we would like to urge restraint, with little in the way of new initiatives which might prove difficult for the new (Post-1997) chief executive and government to implement," the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce said.

Kim: Seoul to review all policies on North in wake of sub incident

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam said Tuesday that he would review all his government's policies on North Korea in the wake of a submarine intrusion into the South last month.

"I intend to review all government policies on North Korea, putting the emphasis on ways to effectively counter North Korea's strategy for communising the South by force," Mr. Kim said in a headline speech on Armed Forces Day.

"As president of the republic ... I feel acutely once again that we have to cope with the situation more firmly and realistically until North Korea gives up its illusions for good," he said.

Saying that impoverished Pyongyang was still "pouring enormous amounts into military expenditure" to maintain its 1.1 million-strong armed forces, Mr. Kim said South Korea's food aid for the North would be reviewed.

"Unless North Korea fundamentally changes its attitude, we will reconsider all assistance to it, including charity, if it is not the result of negotiations," he said.

Mr. Kim, a former dissident, warned he would crack down on "unrealistic and illusory discussions about unification and pro-Communist ways of thinking," which he said could encourage the North to miscalculate.

Seoul would also, he said, exert its efforts through the United Nations Security Council "to discuss effective measures to prevent North Korea from undertaking further provocations."

However, Mr. Kim did not mention any change in Seoul's six-month-old offer to enter into four-party talks with Pyongyang to seek a lasting peace on the peninsula divided by an uneasy truce since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Nor did he broach the subject of Seoul's extensive involvement in a multi-billion-dollar project to build nuclear power reactors for North Korea under a 1994 deal in which Pyongyang froze its nuclear weapons programme.

South Korean Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung last week assured the U.N. General Assembly the peace offer, put forward by Mr. Kim and U.S. President Bill Clinton in April, still stood.

Mr. Gong also said the incursion of the sub would not affect South Korea's cooperation with the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), the U.S.-led group responsible for building the reactors for the North.

But Mr. Kim, whose government in 1994 relaxed rules governing South Korean business investments in the Communist North, and last year shipped 150,000 tonnes of rice free to Pyongyang, made it clear he felt the South was being taken for a ride.

"North Korea is repaying the ROK's (Republic of Korea) support for the North Korean people ... with military provocations," he said. North Korean calls for the return of the Shark-class submarine which ran aground some 100 kilometres south of the demilitarised zone on Sept. 18, were "absurd," he said.

Pyongyang remained silent on the incident for five days before calling for the immediate return of the sub and its 26 crew, and charging that the South should have helped them rather than tracked them down.

In the hunt for the crew, only nine North Koreans have been captured and three are still at large. The sole prisoner has identified some of the crew as elite commandos.

Of the 22 North Koreans to have died, 11 were apparently executed by their colleagues. Five South Korean soldiers have been killed, and a civilian died when caught in crossfire.

Cuba likens U.S. To King Kong escaped from its cage

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Cuba, which has very tense relations with the United States, Monday compared U.S. foreign policy to a King Kong escaping from its cage, destroying at will, particularly during an election campaign.

Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez told the U.N. General Assembly that a number of U.S. moves in the last few months — new legislation against Cuba, missiles fired against Iraq — appeared to have paralysed foreign governments.

He said it was "unbelievable" foreign ministries postponed decisions, such as a coherent policy on Iraq in the U.N. Security Council, until after the Nov. 5 U.S. presidential elections.

"Fortunately these super-elections are only held every four years because if they took place yearly it would be madness to live on this planet," he said.

He said no one could disregard the great influence of the United States. But it would be a mistake to be indifferent to the currents of thought within that country that conceives the possibility of governing the rest of the world.

"We are facing a King Kong escaped from its cage, destroying and smashing without orientation and control."

As expected Mr. Robaina directed much of his anger towards trade legislation against Cuba.

Washington stepped up its 35-year-old blockade of Cuba in March with the Helms-Burton Act, which seeks to isolate the Communist-ruled island by curbing foreign investment. Other nations are also protesting trade curbs against Libya and Iran for alleged involvement in terrorism.

Mr. Robaina said Helms-Burton "was conceived as an additional effort to compel our people to surrender through hunger and poverty."

But he vowed the government of President Fidel Castro "is not and will not be ready to sacrifice the independence, the sovereignty and the self-determination that it has achieved and defended at such a dear price."

He also said that the United States, in putting trade curbs on countries in its war against terrorism, forgot that it was the main promoter of the dirty wars in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Angola and South Africa by supporting the "most bloody regimes that have ever existed in the world."

S. Koreans react angrily to Japan's LDP stand on disputed islands

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korean ruling and opposition MPs Tuesday lambasted Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) for including Tokyo's claim to Tokdo in its election pledge, said legislator Lee Man-Sup of the NKP.

Chung Hee-Kyong of the main opposition National Congress for New Politics chastised the Seoul government for what she called an incoherent stance toward Tokyo over the issue.

She accused the South Korean government of having inflamed Koreans over the territorial dispute to attract more votes in the April National Assembly elections rather than trying to calm emotions.

"But when the government had a chance to raise the issue at the meeting (between President Kim Young-Sam and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto), it surprisingly kept silent," she said.

The criticism was made despite an angry Foreign Ministry comment issued late Friday.

"The government will at no time tolerate Japan's claim to Tokdo," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, calling the election pledge "irresponsible."

The conflicting claims to the Tokdo-Takeshima dispute — currently overshadowed by the bitter row with China over the Diaoyu-Senkaku Islands — has threatened sensitive bilateral relations between Seoul and Tokyo.

Adding fuel to the fire for South Korea, occupied and ruled harshly by Japan from 1910 to 1945, are reports that the LDP plans this year to promote official tributes to the Yasukuni Shrine, a monument to Japan's war dead.

"We cannot accept these moves which run counter to the friendly atmosphere existing between the two countries as well as to bilateral efforts to promote future-oriented cooperative relations," the spokesman told AFP.

The flare-up of the dispute over the islands, known as Tokdo in Korean and Takeshima to Japanese, brought demonstrators daily to the gates of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul.

In Tokyo Monday a spokesman for the LDP, which faces election on Oct. 20, said it would stick to its stand, but explain it to South Korea.

Armenian leader vows no witchhunt after post-poll violence

YEREVAN (Agencies) — Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian said there would be no witchhunt to track down people who took part in last week's post-election violence but vowed troublemakers would have to answer for their deeds in court.

The violence was "not a national tragedy" but only a "sad misunderstanding in Armenia's history," he said late Monday in a bid to downplay events.

"The actions of a few groups of extremists cast a shadow on the morale of the country and the people, but this should not be seen as a national tragedy," he said.

Trouble started when supporters of Mr. Ter-Petrosian's nationalist rival in the Sept. 22 vote, Vazgen Manukyan, hurst into parliament last Wednesday, attacking the speaker, then clashed with police who fired into the air and used water cannons to disperse them.

Mr. Ter-Petrosian responded by ordering troops and armoured vehicles into the streets of the capital — many of which are still in place — to quell the anti-government protests by thousands of opponents who contested his reelection and accused him of falsifying results.

At least eight members of the nationalist opposition have been arrested so far, five of them deputies whose parliamentary immunity was stripped by the legislature after they were accused of taking part in the violence, the prosecutor's office said Monday.

Mr. Manukyan's whereabouts remain unknown and many of his followers have gone underground, fearing government repression.

Official results show that Mr. Ter-Petrosian won with 51.75 per cent of the vote, though Mr. Manukyan won a clear victory over the incumbent in the capital.

Diplomats and opposition politicians say that up to 250 people have been detained since the unrest, some of whom had nothing to do with the protest. Others have gone into hiding.

The Armenian Interior Ministry could not comment and Chief Prosecutor Suren Gyosalyan said he knew nothing about large-scale arrests. "We've only given nine arrest orders," he said. "I do not know who has been arrested."

Mr. Ter-Petrosian has called a violent demonstration by thousands of unarmed Manukyan supporters in which some of them stormed the parliament building and beat up the body's speaker as a "fascist" coup by "mentally ill people."

"We are talking about a very substantial number of people who have been put in prison," said one Western diplomat. "We are extremely concerned about this and will be asking the government for an explanation."

Many diplomats said it appeared that the government had let the protest get out of control to be able to clamp down and avoid opposition calls for a recount.

At least two opposition parties, including Mr. Manukyan's National Democratic Union (NDU) and the smaller National Self-Determination Union (NDSU) have been closed down and their offices are now guarded by government security forces.

A Reuters reporter watched an attack on the NDSU headquarters last Thursday where armed men severely beat about 10 people in the building before dragging them into a police van.

Parliamentary Deputy Aramzad Zakanyan, a former NDSU member, said from a hospital bed that he had been beaten and had spent two days in detention.

"I passed by the NDSU headquarters on the way, where there were a bunch of armed men standing. Soon after I went inside the building... a group of men confronted me and began beating me from all sides with clubs or their fists," he said.

Mr. Zakanyan, who has fractured skull, a broken rib and facial lacerations, said he was beaten again at a police holding centre. He was released after two days and relatives brought him to the hospital.

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Where hope lies in summit

THE WASHINGTON summit yesterday missed the contribution of not just one important player in Middle East politics, namely President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, but two players, the second being the European Union (EU). While we do understand the reasons behind Mr. Mubarak's decision to decline President Clinton's invitation to participate in the summit, and understand even better the wish of the host country to limit the number of participants, we see no good cause behind excluding Europe from such gatherings, including Russia, the co-sponsor of the Madrid peace formula.

It is not only because Europe shoulders the lion's share of aid to the Palestinians that it should be invited to such summits but also in recognition of its even-handed approach to the entire peace process in the region. The EU supported the balanced and constructive UN Security Council resolution that was adopted a few days ago on the recent violent clashes between the Israelis and Palestinians. The three major EU powers — France, Britain and Germany — also made an unprecedented joint appeal to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat last week to resume immediately top-level peace talks, pledging whatever backing they could extend to achieve this objective.

That position put the Europeans at variance with the Americans who had abstained on the resolution which called, inter alia, for the reversal of all actions including the controversial opening of the tunnel that led to the new cycle of violence in Palestine. That stance should not, however, make the European contribution any less important in pushing forward the peace effort. Keeping the EU away from the summit might have thus deprived the forum from an equitable presentation of the issues that have contributed to the breakdown in the Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations.

The absence of both President Mubarak and the international community, as most strongly would have been represented by the Europeans, would have left His Majesty King Hussein with the unenviable task of tending for the Palestinians, making sure that the sovereignty gap in Jerusalem is not filled solely by the Israelis and working with all the parties to put the peace effort back on track. Mr. Clinton will have of course taken the lead in attempting to bridge the huge divide between the Israeli and the Palestinian leaders' positions in order to achieve the third goal. But the American president's hands would have been largely tied in working on the first two fronts, this being an election year, and in light of what power the Likud supporters in Washington have unleashed in defence of Mr. Netanyahu's policies in the days preceding the summit.

Needless to say that Mr. Arafat did well to stop over in Cairo to see Mr. Mubarak and in Luxembourg for a meeting with the troika of EU foreign ministers comprising past, present and the next rotating presidents — Italy, Ireland and the Netherlands — before he arrived in Washington. For their part, the Egyptian president and the EU did equally well by giving him the support he needed for his talks with the Israeli leader.

In the final analysis, though, it will have been the strength of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian position, and the good offices of the U.S. president, that will have been the determining factor in the outcome of the Washington summit.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE RECENT events in the occupied Palestinian lands and in Jerusalem proved that Israeli Premier Benjamin Netanyahu's slogan of security in exchange of peace is impractical and can never survive, said a writer for Al Ra'i. Munes Razzaz said the recent events proved that the Palestinians and the Israelis cannot coexist as long as the Arab rights are usurped and Arab lands are occupied. The Israeli measures, he added, are most likely to encourage Hamas and the Islamic jihad to resume their suicidal attacks on Israeli positions and so further escalate the confrontations between the two sides and completely exposing Mr. Netanyahu's policies to mockery, added the writer. Mr. Netanyahu's arrogance, backed by the United States, is driving the Arabs, in general, and the Palestinians, in particular, towards despair and such a situation could motivate any violent response on the part of the Arabs against the Jewish state, warned the writer. He said that the escalating violence is bound to lead towards the complete ruining of peace in the Middle East and the Arab and Palestinian people's humiliation could drive them to commit any action in order to change the present situation.

COMMENTING ON the Israeli Arab summit in Washington, a writer for Al Dustour said that the meeting indirectly proves that the Palestinian sacrifices have moved the world into meeting and discussing the end of the violence and the sufferings. Saleh Qallab said that by their steadfastness and their determination to wrest their rights and regain their usurped lands, and also by protecting their holy shrines which face desecration by Israel, the Palestinians have gained the sympathy of the whole world. Praising the Palestine National Authority for its firm stand in the face of Israel's measures, the writer said that despite the tragedies they are going through, the Palestinians are holding tight to their rights and are expected to demand at the Washington meeting that the Israelis declare a clear timetable for withdrawing from the occupied Arab territories, in implementation of the Oslo accords.

Washington Watch

The explosion in Palestine can be the catalyst for common Arab stand

AS RECENT tragic events make it clear, the policies pursued by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during his first 100 days in office create the risk of shattering what was left of a fragile and fractured peace process.

The explosion that rocked Palestine last week was tragically destined to occur. Long-term, 70 per cent unemployment, continued land confiscation and road and settlement building, humiliating restrictions on movement and commerce, denial of rights and Israeli refusal to implement even basic provisions of the Oslo accords — all these combined to provide the tinderbox. The latest Israeli provocation in Jerusalem provided the spark.

Whether by design or not, Netanyahu's provocations have resurrected the "old Middle East," albeit in a potentially more dangerous form.

It was the hope of peace makers that the process would be contagious. Peace between Israel and the Palestinians, it was assumed, would speed up and give birth to a "new Middle East." This was the hope, for example, of the Casablanca and Amman economic summits.

But building peace was like constructing a building. In this case the building was an inverted pyramid — an inherently unstable structure — with its base resting in the sands of Gaza and the rocky hills of the West Bank. The other "tracks" of the peace process and the prospects for regional cooperation and development were the second and third stories.

If the foundation collapsed, the entire edifice would collapse on top of it.

What we are seeing in Netanyahu's actions in his first 100 days is not only a set of policies designed to chip away at an unfinished and precarious foundation, but insidious fissures that threaten the entire structure.

Not only have the Palestinians exploded, but the broader Arab World has erupted in anger as well. If Netanyahu hoped to maintain the benefits of the edifice of peace — the relationships with Egypt and Jordan, international acceptance and cooperation, and increased economic assistance — while destroying the foundation that made that all possible, he will, it appears, be frustrated in his efforts.

If official and unofficial Arab reaction has been indicative of anything over the past few weeks, it made clear that peace with the Palestinians is the sine qua non for a broader Middle East peace. If peace could be contagious, so could its absence.

When Netanyahu was elected, Arabs were told to "wait and see." "He might," it was said, "turn out to be Nixon going to China." Having waited 100 days, the Arabs have seen instead an Israeli prime minister who seems to be modelling himself after Ronald Reagan, disdainful of compromise and seeking instead a confrontation to "bring down the evil empire."

Netanyahu is, of course, no Reagan; and the Arab World is not the "evil empire." Rather, the current prime minister of Israel is the inheritor of a peace process and series of agreements. He is not, as he believes, a major player who can reshape the world. Rather, he is a participant

in a process the success of which is dependent upon the participation of all actors working together.

But peace is not Israel's alone. It is not merely an Arab-Israeli peace process, but an international process in which many nations have an interest and a say.

And so it is no surprise that the explosion in Palestine rocked European capitals and Washington politics as well. Politically, the Middle East peace process was one of the Clinton administration's major goals and most highly touted foreign policy accomplishment. On several occasions the president has noted how strongly invested the U.S. is in the completion of the Middle East peace process. Accepting the strategic view of the Bush-Baker team that engineered Madrid, the current administration understands that the U.S. has a vital national security interest in Middle East peace. At stake is the security and stability of U.S. allies and interests in the region.

Though constrained by a long-term practice born of domestic politics (especially in a presidential year), the Clinton administration has repeatedly and privately warned Netanyahu to avoid provocations and creating flashpoints. Additionally, it has also insisted that the new Israeli government honour commitments made by the prior government. And while agreeing to give the new government time to find its political course and resolve political differences, the Clinton team has reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to a comprehensive peace.

Faced now with a crisis

just four weeks before a critical national election, the administration responded by restating those principles.

From recent discussions with administration officials, it is clear that they grasp the urgency of the current crisis.

If there is any serious fault to be found in the administration's response, it has been the oblique nature of its public position. Even here, it is clear that the Israeli press has deciphered the codes and correctly read that the administration holds Netanyahu responsible for the provocation and disruption of the peace process. But Arab critics are right to note that in failing to clearly assess blame, the administration appears to give Netanyahu undeserved breathing space and fails to give Palestinians a clear enough sense of hope that the U.S. is committed to their rights.

Presently, the administration is insisting that the Israelis make a "dramatic gesture" to restore Palestinian confidence in the process. But serious questions remain as to whether or not private diplomacy will work with a Likud government. In the past, only public diplomacy forced Israeli governments to move and only public pressure gave Arabs confidence that the U.S. is committed to a balanced and fair peace process.

A more assertive U.S. role can be instrumental in putting together the shattered peace process. But in this struggle to restart the peace process, the Arabs are not powerless. While the administration assesses the current danger to the process, and

the potential damage to the entire region if this crisis escalates, it is imperative that the Arab World act. Arab leaders should reaffirm their commitment to comprehensive peace and to their demand that peace be based on adherence to agreements reached and full Israeli reciprocity and accountability for its actions.

Arab pressure on the U.S. and Israel could be helpful if positively and constructively applied. Given the dialectic interaction that binds the parties of the process to one another, the actions of each party directly affects the others. Just as Netanyahu's provocation can cause disruption in the broader region, Arab actions could counter such negative policies. A clear message must be sent, for example, to the Israeli business community that the benefits of peace are dependent upon continued progress on the path towards peace.

Constructive and positive Arab pressure on Israel could be instrumental in provoking an internal Israeli debate regarding the actions of their government.

The explosion in Palestine is a tragedy born of anger and despair. In itself, it is no solution, but it may be a step on the road to finding a solution. If any lasting good can come from this new tragedy that has befallen the Palestinian people, it will be in a unified Arab stand to change the negative dynamic within Israel and to press the U.S. to be more assertive in the preservation of its direct investment in securing a just, comprehensive, and mutually beneficial peace.

America has a bossy habit of having things its own way

By Jessica Mathews

WASHINGTON

Congratulations, says the letter, your country has been certified by the United States as having acceptable sea turtle conservation practices. You may continue to sell shrimp in our market.

"That's good, I suppose," shrugs the ambassador to whom the letter is addressed, adding with some bitterness: "I didn't even know we were being judged on sea turtles. Where does it end?"

Not with fishing. As self-appointed global hall monitor, the United States unilaterally judges environmental practices, human rights policies, anti-terrorism, the fairness of elections and the adequacy of anti-drug efforts — although its own elections are noteworthy for minuscule turnout and massive special-access money, and its efforts to shrink the world's largest pool of drug users have been strikingly ineffective.

Washington pushes a widening set of rules of international behaviour and simultaneously claims a growing number of exemptions. It has made it a common practice to lead negotiations to a U.S.-defined outcome and then reject the result — human rights treaties, the Law of the Sea treaty, perhaps the Chemical Weapons Convention.

At the United Nations, the United States specifies financial and management reforms as the price of its support, and when they are adopted it moves the goalposts. U.S. non-payment of dues violates a formal, legal obligation.

America expects a prominent role even when it decides not to play, as at the International Court of Justice, which includes American jurists although the United States rejects the court's jurisdiction. Recently imposed secondary boycotts against Cuba, Iran and

Libya are a practice Washington loudly condemned when it was used by the Arab states against Israel. The assertion of domestic legal jurisdiction outside U.S. borders infuriates America's closest allies.

Rather than debate, as we Americans have for years, how much multilateralism we can stand, the real question for U.S. foreign policy is how unilateral it can afford to be and still be effective and publicly supported.

One superpower, it turns out, is harder to swallow than two, especially when it counts Hollywood, McDonald's and CNN in its arsenal.

For anyone outside the United States, says former Canadian Prime Minister Joe Clark, a self-described friend of the United States, "it's pretty hard to persuade yourself that your destiny lies exclusively in your own hands. Not to put it too subtly, the stars and stripes are in your face — on your television, in your markets, on every question of foreign policy and many of domestic policy."

In your face or not, the world is lucky to have us. We have reason to expect special treatment. Without us there would have been no response to the invasion of Kuwait, no peace in Bosnia and no deal to halt North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

Europeans would have lifted the sanctions against Iraq long before its chemical, biological and missile programmes were rooted out.

There would have been no bailout of the Mexican peso, and any number of non-proliferation, environmental and human rights standards would be a far cry from what they are today. Many fewer people would have tasted liberty.

But Americans should not kid themselves that others do not notice when U.S. leadership is oddly incomplete. In the Gulf war and the North Korean deal, we spent other countries' money. In

the percentage of wealth or per capita income that goes for aid, America ranks last among industrialised nations, and it is the only significant debtor at the World Bank. We are both a smaller piece of the global economy and less willing to spend what we have.

We are less willing to spend blood, too. As the margin of our military superiority grows, our willingness to accept risk has dropped. We shun any but U.S.-designed and U.S.-led peacekeeping, while our unpaid U.N. bills mean that poor countries which do commit troops go unreimbursed. Our military preeminence means less to others than it used to because so few feel threatened.

Our rising demands on others, in fact, are uncomfortably matched to a smaller pool of leadership assets. Those Americans who make foreign policy have an undiminished — if not enlarged — sense of the need for the United States to decide everything from the conflict in Northern Ireland to the balance of power in Asia. This view is not shared by a public that overwhelmingly prefers international burden-sharing.

We are in the habit of asserting a rhetorical imperative for U.S. leadership that we do not intend to provide. It leads us into trouble and encourages others to sit back and wait for us.

What can only America do in the world? How much does it need others, and exactly what for? How much can it go its own way and still command support when it wants it from friends and allies? Is it too often, or too insistently, the arbiter of global good conduct? Is its belief that only America can lead a self-fulfilling prophecy?

We do not so much need a new single idea to replace containment of communism as we do a consensus on a workable unilateralism tolerable to others and understood, supported and adequately funded by Americans.

The writer is a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. This article is reprinted from The Washington Post.

LETTERS

Murder in the family

To the Editor:

THE MURDER of Hanin and Hani, the two children killed by their father, has caused shock waves across Jordan. It has elicited many comments from the public at large, the most obvious of which was "how can a father be capable of killing his own children." Is it impossible? What about the average annual rate of 25 murders committed by fathers/brothers against daughters/sisters, which actually constitute 32 per cent of the annual average of murders, in the name of family honour?

Another common reaction by people that one encounters is discussing most painful ways for punishing the children's father. For example, there are those who are of the opinion that he should be publicly executed. Others think he should be given cyanide, exactly what he did to his children. Less gruesome, but not less forgiving, are those who believe that he should be allowed to live in order to suffer for the remainder of his life in prison.

Then come the common lamentations in society at large that regard Hanin's and Hani's murder as the harbinger for the whole degeneration of the Arab family (from its idealised form, of course).

In this context, I would like to raise the issue of what kind of punishment should be meted out to fathers and brothers who committed murders against their own daughters and sisters in the name of "family honour". Six months to perhaps 2 years in jail at the most?

Is not the murder of young women for the sake of a ludicrous public reputation (honour) not as much of a saddening sign of family deterioration?

I have been left wondering as to why public sympathy and distress has poured, and even tears shed, over this case while people remain passive at the occurrence of the so-called honour crimes. Is it perhaps because Hani and Hanin are innocent children compared to the allegedly not-so-innocent young women who are victims of honour crimes: is it perhaps because the crime occurred in some peaceful middle-class neighbourhood in West Amman; or is it perhaps because it is a dual murder in a family with no other children?

It cannot possibly be any of the above because a murder is a murder regardless of the motivation, age, class or family size.

I just hope that the next time a father/brother murders a daughter/sister we will witness the same efficiency and professionalism by the police, the same extensive media coverage, and the same compassion and outcry from all Jordanians.

Mary Kawan,
Amman.



Smoking can improve your budget

By Ali Kassay

It has always been said that the great tragedy of science is the destruction of a beautiful myth by an ugly fact. Many examples of this exist, but none is more stark than the discovery, in the early to mid seventies, that smoking is bad for your health. Some scientists even went as far as asserting that every cigarette shortens one's life span by five minutes.

At the time when this last theory was first circulated, Basil Boothroyd lamented in Punch Magazine that his generation was raised with the song that eulogised "Two, two cigarettes in the dark..." rather than the announcement of the horrible idea that the couple on the staircase are lopping off aggregates of five minutes from their actuarial expectancies.

He has a point. I myself was weaned on films where girls, wanting to show a bloke to be a thorough nerd, said of him that he did not even smoke. At the same time, as a child, (well, as an adult too) I marvelled at the panache of Humphrey Bogart as he placed a cigarette in the corner of his mouth so nonchalantly that it barely touched his lips, and knocked the bad guys out while he had a drag or two, then tossed his smoke away to take Ingrid Bergman or Lauren Bacall in an embrace.

Still, we live in a world where science rules supreme... Or do we? Looking at reactions to these findings, it is not impossible to argue, albeit facetiously, that they were guided by national stereotypes more than rational consideration of scientific data.

Americans, in their missionary zeal for a cause to preach, took the matter to the extreme where a person, caught in possession of a lit cigarette in public will be treated with less tolerance than a mad axman who slays six. The British followed the Americans and declared that they have thus showed the way to their "cousins in the colonies". The French, in their inimitable way, abandoned their own black tobacco in favour of the American-type Virginia tobacco. Jordanians, always keen to keep apace with the latest developments and trends in the world, formed a national committee to combat smoking. This worthy body probably was given a time allocation on JTV on the occasion of something or other, during which everybody switches over to Israeli Television and denies categorically having done so the following day. But apart from that it has not made its presence felt.

By contrast, cigarette companies have multiplied in Jordan, and their products are available at very cheap prices. Just as a suggestion, the treasury could earn quite a handsome packet, were it to subject these manifestly harmful products to a higher tax, which would reap the additional fruit of discouraging smoking.

Still, while on dreams, mine as a devout smoker and an honest Jordanian is to gain membership of this committee, so that I may be able to buy shares in one of the thriving cigarette companies with my conscience clear that I also do my bit to combat smoking.

Opinion
Washington — road to independence or just a truce?

By Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi

THE PALESTINIAN anger that exploded a few days ago was the "genie" about which Israeli Chief of Amman Shahak said: "putting the genie back into the bottle is not simple, but is now up to the political leadership" (The Jerusalem Post, Sept. 29, 1996).

I was among the angry crowds who went to the streets of Jerusalem to protest the ongoing Israeli attempts to judaize the city, part of which was the announcement of the completion of the excavation and the opening of the tunnel from Omariyyah school to Al Burak (wailing) wall, passing by Al Aqsa Mosque. In cities, towns and refugee camps throughout the West Bank and Gaza our masses stood up in fury, denouncing the Israeli measures.

In Jerusalem, we assembled few metres from the entrance to the Omariyyah-Burak tunnel, next to the Austrian Hospice/Hospital in the old city's Al Wad Street, to participate in a civilian march on Sept. 26. Neither myself nor my colleagues went to fight in a combat so we did not carry weapons or bullets. We did not go to give lectures so we did not hold papers or pencils. We are no tourists in our city, so we did not carry signs and cameras. We were part of the Jerusalemite Arab society which is strongly attached to its holy places and its symbol, Al Aqsa Mosque, and whose national pulse proved to be very much alive.

We demanded the immediate and permanent closure of the tunnel. We declared our resistance against and rejection of Israeli actions in the city, reminding whoever had doubts that Jerusalem is ours too. With us, there were many others who shouted "Jerusalem is an Arab city" and "Allahu Akbar," enough for the Israeli occupying forces to attack us within minutes with their sticks and their rifles, hitting — hatred in their eyes — heavily in all directions with no distinction between men and

Opinion

Washington — road to independence or just a truce?

By Dr. Mahdi Abdul Hadi

women, old and young. They forced us towards the gates of the old city, from where we brought our wounded to Maqassad Hospital, carrying and comforting them. Numerous media people covered this day, seeking answers for so many questions raised by the Palestinian anger.

Palestinian and Israeli attempts to spell out the reasons behind this angry outburst did not differ much. Israeli officials admitted that they foresaw an eventual explosion in the Palestinian territories due to worsening of the overall situation; the deterioration of the Palestinian economy and internal Palestinian frustration based on the conviction that the peace process had come to a dead-lock.

Ami Ayalon, head of the Israeli General Security Services (GSS), was quoted in The Jerusalem Post of Sept. 29 as saying: "We saw for a long time that all of the elements of inflammation were there," but "we could not say what would be the straw (to break the camel's back)."

The Palestinian side added to this rationalisation that, after 100 days of the right-wing government's assumption of powers, it had become evident that the policies they pursued closed all doors to any possible progress on the bilateral negotiation track. Netanyahu did everything to bring Palestinian hope to a freezing point. Neither did he show any intention to withdraw his troops from Hebron, notwithstanding the promises he had made to this end on his first official visit to Cairo, nor did he freeze settlement activities — the very cancer threatening the Palestinian society, their land and their integrity. He also refused to release Palestinian detainees, a long pending issue whose solution is demanded by the Palestine National Authority (PNA). Nor did he lift, at least ease, the siege on Palestinian cities and towns to allow the normal geographic and demographic linkage between Gaza and the West Bank to unfold and develop — as agreed and laid down in the transitional agree-

ment. He furthermore continued the siege of Jerusalem, isolating it from its hinterland, threatening — if not liquidating — the rights of its Arab inhabitants, confiscating Palestinian land, and demolishing Palestinian homes. And as if all this were not enough, Netanyahu even escalated his policy of threats, directing it immediately towards Arab-Islamic heritage by expanding excavations close to Islamic holy places in Jerusalem and, most recently, opening the tunnel. Netanyahu evidently underestimated not only the Palestinian people's will but also their leadership's, seemingly convinced that Palestinians have limited choices and are compelled to find ways to accommodate themselves with the policies of the Likud government.

The Palestinian anger opened a new chapter in the conflict in the region. The masses' anger was as spontaneous as it was the case with the 1936 revolt and the infitadah of 1987. In Ramallah, for example, Palestinian national security forces took off their uniforms and joined the children of the infitadah, to struggle side by side with their rifles and bullets, with their bodies and souls, in a unique national unity. In Nablus, we saw a complete reversal of the premises: the occupiers surrendered to the occupied, banding over their guns to the Palestinian forces. In Jerusalem, the youth of Al Aqsa challenged Israeli bullets with their bare chests; martyrs sacrificed their lives after Friday prayers.

In the first week, the angry outburst left 70 martyrs and some 1,600 casualties on the Palestine side, while 14 Israelis were killed and tens more injured. National committees were set up everywhere to deal with the newly emerged situation, resembling the establishment of similar bodies in the 1936 revolt and the popular committees founded during the infitadah.

The masses' anger has changed the Palestinian-Israeli relations both politically and securitywise. Fear is back on the agenda,

bridges of confidence which had just been established between the joint security and coordination committees have collapsed, their respective authority capabilities have differed on all levels and in all areas. Both sides are now facing three options: a) the Palestinian anger — symbol of their national pride and dignity — may further challenge the Israeli right-wing government; this could continue either under the leadership of the PNA or develop its own dynamic. In their struggle for freedom and independence they would accept the risk of more sacrifices, martyrs and injured in daily confrontations; b) the Palestinian anger may retreat either due to domestic constraints, for the sake of insulating the entity of the Palestinian society and its achievements, or due to regional and international pressures, possibly pushing for a new regional formula; c) the ongoing anger may lead to a national mutiny with no surrender, which, in turn, may lead to chaos and turmoil in the Palestinian society, making it an easy victim to be conquered and governed by Israeli tanks.

The current political scenario is summarily reflected in the positions of both sides: the Palestinians — as unanimously declared by the PLO, the PNA and the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) in their respective recent statements — call for the immediate and permanent closure of the tunnel in the old city of Jerusalem, for immediate redeployment from Hebron and release of Palestinian detainees from Israeli prisons, and for the immediate resumption of negotiations on the final status issues, as signed and agreed upon by the previous Israeli government.

The Israelis on the other hand, as stated by Benjamin Netanyahu personally, declared that the tunnel would stay open forever, that the "pioneer settlements" in the Palestinian territories would be further developed, and that there would be no evacuation from Hebron. Such concessions are considered seeds for further Palestinian pop-

ular uprisings. In addition, the right-wing government reinterpreted the formula of the peace process as "security for peace" instead of "land of peace;" within this framework, the future of Jerusalem is unilaterally decided upon by Israeli policies and claimed sovereignty. Mr. Netanyahu's position is that all negotiation issues should be reopened from a new starting point, i.e., according to the recent developments. He goes as far as to demand that Israel keep the upper hand on the Palestinian authority and security capabilities.

The gap between the two parties is obvious and wide and, for the time being, it is seemingly not possible to find a common ground or mutually accepted means and ways to close the ranks and enforce stability. This, however, is the key to halt the confrontations and pave the way to resume negotiations.

The recent events were closely and with sincere concern observed by the international community. Washington immediately delivered a new diplomatic initiative calling for an urgent summit of Palestinian, Arab and Israeli leaders. The Arab streets in Cairo, Amman, Beirut, Damascus demonstrated strong support for the Palestinian anger and official statements from the Maghreb, the Saudis and other Gulf states supported the Palestinian stand by condemning the Israeli measures. The current Palestinian anger and the possible Israeli reactions, militarily and politically, has put both sides as well as the region as a whole at the doorstep of a new political arena with two options: a) If the confrontation, clashes and bloodshed will continue from both sides, the 100 days of Netanyahu's governing Israel is being put on a test in the coming ten days, at the end of which the Israeli Knesset will convene and the current government will face a vote of no confidence, possibly forcing Netanyahu to step down. b) The other option is related to the impending Washington conference and depends on its outcome,

i.e., where it will lead the parties involved.

In the 1936 revolt, the Palestinian leadership carried its national decision to Arab capitals, Riyadh, Amman and Cairo. This led eventually to a concerted action of Arab governments calling for the end of the revolt and the participation in St. James Conference in London in 1939. In the infitadah of 1987 the Palestinian leadership maintained the independence of its national decision making and succeeded in gaining Arab support for its cause. It later went towards direct negotiations in the conferences of Madrid, Washington, Moscow and Oslo. Today, as a result of the recent Palestinian anger, the Palestinian leadership is at a new crossroads, learning from previous historical experiences how to maintain the linkage and the consensus between its national decisions and other Arab capital's positions and interests.

On the way to the new Washington conference, Palestinians, with the backing of Cairo and Amman, will face the challenges of Netanyahu and his government's policies, realising that it will be an exercise in crisis management rather than conflict resolution.

"Putting the 'genie' (Palestinian anger) into the bottle is not simple" unless there is responsible political actions by all parties working jointly to avoid the collapse of security and stability in the region as well as of the peace process.

Do we expect, for us and the others, that the coming Washington conference will bring guarantees for a dignified life towards freedom and independence? Will it be just another conference in the historical chronology of attempts to reach a settlement? Or will it be another "station" for the combatants to reach a truce and to control and contain the Palestinian anger for the time being?

The writer is head of the Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (PASIA), Jerusalem — Al Quds. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

LETTERS

Apology due for 'plagiarism'...

To the Editor:

I READ with interest in the Jordan Times, Sept. 30, 1996, issue, under "Economic Review" an article by Dr. Yusuf Mansour headed "The need for strategic competition". But I was really shocked to find out that the writer did use the same examples, issues and ideas which I had used during a two-day workshop on Jordan's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held recently.

These examples stem from my experience in the field, noting that I represent the Jordan Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in the sub-sector committee on tourism for WTO negotiations. It is worthwhile mentioning that I raised these issues during the workshop simply because there are no safeguard provisions for loss of business as a result of unfair competition in the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) agreement.

In this case, the unfair competition stems from the fact that the Israeli tourism industry is heavily subsidised.

Dr. Mansour did not have the courtesy to mention that the issues and the examples he used in his article were borrowed from the discussions which took place during the two-day workshop by none other than myself or, he should have said, by one of the participants.

I should remind Dr. Mansour that I was there to explore safeguard measures for the tourism sector and to express my concern and fears of the damages that will be brought about as a result of opening up the tourism sector to the GATT agreement.

I think an apology is due. Many people present could verify that Dr. Mansour borrowed the issues and examples, especially the organisers: the Ministry of Industry and Trade and, on their behalf, Tamam Al Ghoul.

Hiyam Al Khateeb,
Jordan Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities,
Amman.

...Giants' help isn't 'plagiarism'

To the Editor:

BEING AN academician with a refereed book published in the UK by a very prestigious publishing house, and having authored and co-authored several refereed academic papers published in the U.S., I take the charge of plagiarising anyone's intellectual property extremely seriously. As a long-time proponent of copyright laws and a strong supporter of intellectual property rights laws, it is doubly saddening to be wrongly accused of stealing someone's thoughts or ideas, as Hiyam Al Khateeb has erroneously asserted in her letter written in reference to my article, "The Need for Strategic Competition".

The first section of the article alluded to the need for studying strategic competition and its usage in international investment and trade, an idea which I have used and referred to in several of my previous articles. I have published papers utilising game theory, an analytical tool used in strategic competition (and in the article in question), in the Journal of Regional Science and Urban Economics with M.L. Greenhut and C.S. Lee Vol. 21: 1991, and in the Review of International Organisation, 1995 with M.L. Greenhut, and J. Greenhut. Also, in 1990 I presented a paper on the topic, from my doctoral dissertation, at the American Economic Association, Annual Meeting, as it was being recognised as one of the four most distinguished dissertations in the U.S. As a professor at Texas A&M University I participated in conferences and seminars on the topic of game theory, given by some of the best in the field (Raymond Battalio, Curtis Taylor, Jean Tirole, Vincent Crawford, etc.) So I think I am qualified to write about and discuss strategic competition. Actually, the idea of strategic competition was formalised by Von Neuman and Morgenstern in 1945, long before the WTO-EU workshop which was held on September 23-25, 1996.

Better still, in my article "Tragedy and the quarry," Jordan Times, Sept. 9, 1996, I used a tourism example in conjunction with the concept of the tragedy of the commons, which is also another application of strategic competition and game theory. Moreover, in my article, "Comprehensive planning needed to develop tourism," Jordan Times, April 14, 1996 (paragraphs 8 and 9), I used the concept of strategic competition in reference to the tourism industry.

The second idea presented in the article was an example illustrating the concept of strategic competition that was originally promoted in 1982 by James Brander and Barbara Spencer (Brander-Spencer Model) which has become public knowledge in the field. An easy reference to this model can be found in Peddling Prosperity, pages 234-239, by the eminent MIT professor Paul Krugman.

The last part of the letter was alluding to my article "Tragedy and the quarry," concerning the Dead Sea, where Jordan and Israel have strategic vested interests and where the model of tragedy of the commons would be applicable. However, I believe that Ms. Khateeb refers to the following quote from my article as hers: "In games of competition for tourists, Israeli tourist companies lure tourists to Elat by offering them a free one-day trip to Petra." In a question directed by Ms. Khateeb to one of the speakers at the WTO conference, two sessions of which I chaired, she used the one-day trip to Petra as an example of the need for a safeguard law in Jordan. (Actually, there is a Draft Safeguard Law that is in the process of being presented to the parliament). But this has nothing to do with strategic competition. She did not allude to the games being played, nor did she use the phenomena in the same context as I did in my article. In fact, what she had said publicly was common knowledge, not an original idea or a state secret.

Furthermore, Ms. Khateeb has confused plagiarism with intellectual property. Intellectual property is "information whose intrinsic value is derived from creativity and has commercial value," according to Paterson and Lindberg (1991), The Nature of Copyright: A Law of User's Rights. Plagiarism, according to the Modern Language Association Handbook, page 129, is "the offering of the words or ideas of another person as one's own." The handbook gives as an example of common-knowledge: "most sources on Franklin Pierce will report common-knowledge facts as well as specific perspectives on the facts: his birth and death, 1804-69; his support of the Compromise of 1850, his role at age 48 as 14th president of the United States of America from 1853-57, and even his political support of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. However, if you use one historian's idea that Pierce's handling of the slavery issue ruined his effectiveness as president, you must provide an in-text citation to the source."

When Israeli tourism operators offer one-day trips to Petra they publicise it, this is common knowledge, they hope. What I asked for in the article was strategic competition which I believe was never mentioned at the conference.

The remainder of the information presented in this section (The fact that the Ministry of Tourism in Israel has increased its budget by 1,100 per cent) is public information which can be obtained from a publication by the Jordanian Embassy in Israel, for example. In other words, the whole article, though it benefited from the works of intellectual giants, was my own.

Yusuf Mansour,
Amman.

What does Netanyahu want?

By Gwynne Dyer

EVERYTHING ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has done since he narrowly won the Israeli election four months ago seems to have been designed to unleash the kind of violence that is now sweeping the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Could that be what he really wants?

Netanyahu has postponed the scheduled withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Palestinian city of Hebron. He has allowed Jewish settlements on the West Bank to expand. Last month, he declared that "there is no possibility that we can agree with the Palestinians on the issue of Jerusalem." He has effectively frozen the entire peace process.

And then, having heaped the powder up, he put a match to it. In the dark of night, under heavy military guard, he opened up a second exit to a tunnel under the Western Wall in Jerusalem even though the Palestinians had clearly identified it as an ultra-sensitive issue.

Given the extreme frustration of the Palestinian population, the response was as inevitable as sunrise. So the Palestinian protests start, and Israeli troops shoot at the stone-throwing protesters, and armed Palestinian police fire back, and next thing you know helicopter gunships are blasting away at kids and police indiscriminately.

Looking at Netanyahu's actions over the past four months, an outside observer is forced to the suspicion that he intended the conse-



quences we are now seeing: widespread carnage and an impending breakdown of the whole Israeli-Palestinian peace process. And there is nothing new, after all, in a Likud prime minister pretending to go along with peace negotiations while secretly working to forestall any progress.

Yitzhak Shamir, Israel's prime minister during the Gulf war and the subsequent Madrid summit that set the Middle East peace process in motion, swore blind while he was in office that he genuinely wanted a peace agreement with the Palestinians and Israel's

Arab neighbours. He had to, to ease the pressure from Washington and to placate an important slice of Israeli public opinion, even on the right.

But once he lost office to the late Yitzhak Rabin, Shamir was contemptuously frank about his real intentions. He had never believed an agreement with the Arabs was possible or desirable, he said. He had just been playing along with the negotiations to keep the Americans happy, but he would never have made any concessions.

"Bibi" Netanyahu is of a different generation from

Shamir, and he is a much smoother character. But he leads the same party and he comes from the same background: his father, Ben Zion, once served as secretary to Vladimir Jabotinsky, patron saint of the "Revisionists" who were the most extreme and violent of the Zionist groups in pre-1948 Palestine. So it is not conceivable that he is following the same strategy.

As in Shamir's case, Netanyahu would have to pretend, to the Israeli electorate and to Israel's allies abroad, that he really did want a settlement. And in order to forestall the need

for serious negotiations, sooner or later he would have to find a way of driving the Palestinians back to violence.

That is one explanation for the mid-night operation last week that opened up a second exit to the tunnel under the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Given that this action has been repeatedly postponed for the past ten years because of clear warnings that there would be a violent popular reaction among Palestinians, the only other plausible explanation for Netanyahu's decision is that he is extremely stupid.

He does not seem stupid. Indeed, Netanyahu's entire behaviour after the demonstrations erupted supports the hypothesis that he wanted this to happen.

Why else did he fail to return from Europe until the killing was well under way? Why did he flatly refuse to reconsider a decision of such marginal political benefit? (Even on the far right in Israel, there was not a strong demand for opening the tunnel).

And why did he accuse Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat of inciting an uprising in the very same breath that he demanded a face-to-face meeting between the two men? These are not the actions of a man anxious to preserve the momentum towards a final settlement.

Netanyahu may be as innocent as he claims, or as intelligent as he looks, but he cannot be both. If his strategy really is to destroy the previous government's deal with the Palestinians, where do we go from here?

Not immediately to a reoccupation by the Israeli army of the towns (containing over two-thirds of the Palestinian population) that have already been handed over to the Palestinian National Authority. That would be deeply unpopular in Israel, because the army would take huge casualties in disarming or killing 30,000 Palestinian policemen, and would then be back patrolling the same streets that were such a nightmare for it during the infitadah.

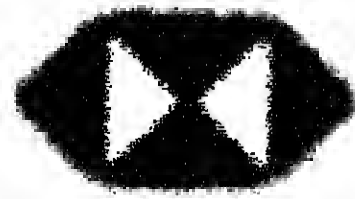
On the other hand, it is not imaginable that Israel can refuse all serious negotiations with the Palestinians over the next four years, as Netanyahu clearly intends, without something of that sort happening. Especially since it won't be long now before the suicide bombers are at work in Israel again.

The present wave of confrontations, which has caused over 70 deaths in the past week, may die down for a while. Arafat seems to have his police back under control, and he will try to calm the rioters because he can see where Netanyahu is heading. But so long as the Israeli leader maintains his present course, it will be only a temporary respite.

Perhaps we should hope that Netanyahu is stupid, because stupid people can still learn from their mistakes. The alternative is much worse.

Now see us in

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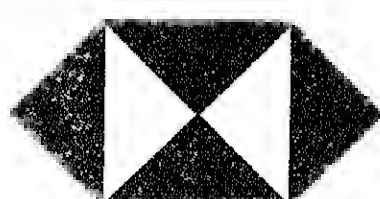
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New margarine lowers cholesterol

By Yousef M. Ibrahim

RAISIO, Finland — There are few visible signs of the good fortune hovering over this little company town by the Baltic Sea. Yet, if the 57-year-old farmer-owned company here, Raisio Group, a maker of french fries, wheat flour and pet food, plays its margarine right, it may turn into one of those Cinderella success stories usually associated with California software companies.

The reason is that Raisio's new margarine, Benecol, contains a plant extract from the pine trees of Finland that medical testing has shown not only blocks but actually lowers levels of cholesterol in the bloodstream.

It sounds almost too good to be true: Simply dab some Benecol on morning toast and within months your cholesterol count may be down 10 to 15 per cent and the risk of a heart attack may be cut by a third. So far, a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine has supported the claims, and no negative side effects have been reported.

Ever since Raisio, whose 2,300 employees and their families make up the heart of this village, began to produce and sell the new margarine late last year, the conservative company managers have been struggling to keep their Nordic cool in the face of a frenzy by investors and the media.

In the last several months, Raisio stock has more than quadrupled to about \$68 a share on the Helsinki Stock Exchange. While Benecol is sold only in Finland for now, the demand has been so overwhelming that the company is hurriedly building a factory to raise production to 5.1 million pounds (2.3 million kilograms) in 1997 from 880,000 this year.

Even though the cost of Benecol is about five times that of ordinary margarine — about \$10 a pound compared with \$1.90 — Helsinki's big Stockmann department store and supermarkets around the country regularly put up signs apologising to customers for running out of it.

Global food processing giants are courting Raisio's patented invention. Foreign

investors, who owned just 9 per cent of the stock last year, now own 44 per cent and swoop into town weekly to check the place out.

And analysts wax lyrical over its prospects, with some predicting confidently that it will become a major international brand by decade's end, even though sales in the rest of Europe and the United States are probably far off.

"It is like an atomic bomb we didn't mean to invent," said Jukka Maki, 61, the company's deputy chief executive. "We were just looking for a better margarine. We never thought it would be that big."

Big as it is, Raisio is responding to all the hoopla with typical Nordic solidity. Its public-relations staff comprises just an information director and two assistants, and neither they nor senior management make any effort to hype the new health food.

When Mr. Maki, the deputy chief executive, went to London last month to make the company's first-ever presentation to stock analysts, he began his speech by saying: "Excuse me, but this is all new to us.

We are not prepared for all the attention." Then, as the mostly young audience waited impatiently to hear more about Benecol, he went on to talk about Raisio's conservative business practices and desire to maintain a reputation for quality.

Benecol was born in the laboratory of Ingmar Wester, a company scientist who spent eight years developing a method to extract plant substances known as sterols, whose efficacy in reducing the cholesterol content of blood has been recognised for a half-century, and to make them soluble in water.

Working closely with researchers at two Finnish universities, Mr. Wester, 37, discovered that sitostanol, a sterol found in pine trees, could be mixed with fatty foods without altering their taste — an important advantage in a business where slight alterations in flavour can turn consumers off.

The research was driven by the need to do something about Finland's cholesterol crisis. The Finns' fatty diet — Stan Von Helles, Raisio's informa-

tion director, jokes that his compatriots "think sausages are vegetables" — has given them the dubious distinction of tying with Scotland for the highest cholesterol levels in the world.

Mr. Wester completed his work in 1991. But Raisio, which already produced half the margarine sold in Finland, did not act on his discovery until the results of a yearlong study of sitostanol's effect on the cholesterol levels in 1,500 Finns were published in the New England Journal of Medicine in November.

Now, however, the company does not plan to stop with Benecol. Its scientists are already looking into ways of putting sitostanol into everything from chocolate candy, ice cream and energy bars to mayonnaise, cereals and hamburgers.

But before it can market its margarine or any of the other cholesterol-busters on its drawing board to a fat-besotted world, Raisio must solve some major problems. It will have to link up with a big European or American partner with worldwide marketing and

distribution capabilities. It will also need to find new sources of sitostanol. Currently, it processes five tonnes of waste pulp at Finnish paper mills to distill one pound of the oil that is turned into the chemical.

Then there are the regulatory obstacles that await in the United States, where the Food and Drug Administration puts new products through the toughest testing in the world, and, to a lesser extent, in the 12-nation European Union.

Even if Raisio overcomes those hurdles, it is not clear that consumers everywhere will be willing to keep paying such a big premium for a run-of-the-mill grocery item when effective prescription alternatives exist.

For example, a study of 6,595 healthy middle-aged men in Scotland, also published in the New England Journal of Medicine in November, showed that pravastatin lowered cholesterol by an average of 20 per cent, compared with 10 per cent to 15 per cent for Benecol, and reduced non-fatal heart attacks by 31 per cent and deaths from heart disease by 28 per cent, compared with Benecol's

overall 33 per cent reduction in the risk of heart attacks. Previous studies showed that the drug reduced the risk of heart attack by 62 per cent in patients with high cholesterol who already had heart disease.

And in 1994, a Scandinavian research team reported that simvastatin, sold as Zocor by Merck & Co., reduced coronary deaths by 42 per cent in a five-year study of 4,400 men and women with a history of heart disease. And while such medicines, costing about \$800 a year, are not cheap, they are within the reach of many people.

On the other hand, some studies suggest that cholesterol-lowering drugs can cause cancer. And a vegetable-oil spread containing a cholesterol-combating agent derived from plants would be sure to appeal to the growing hordes of consumers in America and elsewhere who are enamoured of "natural" foods and medications.

People used to eating lots of greasy food might be a natural constituency for cholesterol-lowering mar-

garine, too (to say nothing of the ice cream and burgers that might some day hit the grocery shelves). Take Tapani Vvoriola, a 60-year-old Finnish dairy worker who has had four coronary-bypass operations.

"For years, I made butter and cheese and I ate them liberally and drank milk," as well as devouring large quantities of meat, Mr. Vvoriola said as he made his way down a supermarket aisle.

"Now my doctor said to use Benecol. It's not as good as my butter, but my cholesterol has dropped one point in six weeks. The problem is there isn't enough of it." Since then, he said he had achieved about a 10 to 15 per cent drop in his cholesterol count.

Spotting the store manager, Pirkko Rosoff, he asked loudly, "Where is it?"

"I don't know," the manager replied with a shrug. "Ask the company. What they give us, we sell in a day or two."

International Herald Tribune

Barzani — where opportunism and ambition meet

By Kanan Makiya

I MET Massoud Barzani, the leader of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), in northern Iraq in October 1991, seven months after the end of the Gulf war. Leaving him, I felt, as I later wrote, that "Iraqis could not do better than have someone like this preside over the reconstruction of a post-Saddam Iraq." Barzani told me then that the "pain was so deep" between his group and the Saddam Hussein government, and even between his own and some of the other Iraqi opposition groups, that it would be "very difficult to cure it. But if we adopt the path of forgiveness, and try to open a new page, we will be living for the next generation. For our children there must be forgiveness, otherwise we are going to dive into a sea of blood."

He meant it. Or so I believed. Barzani had the reputation of being a straight-forward, even simple, man. In his early fifties, he is a relatively young but conservative leader, steeped in his family and tribal background. He is the son of Mullah Mustafa Barzani, the leader of the Kurdish struggle for national independence against the Iraqi regime in the sixties and seventies, who died in exile in Washington in 1979. Massoud saw three of his brothers killed by Saddam.

He was, I thought, someone who believed in Kurdish codes of honour, loyalty and respect. Above all, he seemed a man of his word, who was constantly and painfully aware of his people's legacy of suffering. So impressed was I by him, that as one of the original members of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), a coalition of Iraqi opposition groups, I wanted to nominate him to be our head. The founding meeting of the INC, attended by some 170 delegates, was held in October 1992, in Salahuddin, which was part of northern Iraqi territory that had come under allied protection following the war and was mainly inhabited



Massoud Barzani

by Kurds. If there was one man the Kurdish parliament would agree on to be their leader, he would most likely be Barzani.

Just after the Gulf war, there had been a revolution in Iraqi politics on the 20 per cent of Iraqi soil occupied by the Kurds. Internationally observed elections were held in which most of the Kurds, amounting to 20 per cent of the Iraqi people, took part: a working parliament met in Erbil. Those who wanted a new and different Iraq, I believed, had to build on that Kurdish experience, using northern Iraq as a base from which to bring about the country's transformation.

All the INC delegates were aware that the Barzani name had come to stand for struggle against the dictatorship in Baghdad. And so it seemed right that he would lead the transition to a dramatically new Iraq. On August 30, 1996, the same Massoud Barzani invited Saddam back into Erbil, the seat of the Kurdish parliament since 1992. His men turned their guns against their own former comrades in the Iraqi opposition. They hit from the north while Saddam stormed into Erbil

from the south with 450 tanks and some 40,000 Republican Guards. The KDP worked closely with the Iraqi mukhabarat, the secret police, who used the information the KDP provided to conduct house-to-house searches in Erbil. The mukhabarat penetrated deep into Iraqi Kurdistan, hounding up the TV, radio, and military installations of the Iraqi opposition and arresting every Arab they could get their hands on who had taken refuge in the previously protected northern region. (Many of them were not working for the opposition).

As I write, several hundred members of the INC are surrounded by KDP guerrillas in Salahuddin while Barzani decides what to do with his former comrades. His forces, augmented by Iraqi soldiers dressed as Kurds and plainclothes police, took Koyisnajaq on September 8, followed by Sulaymaniyah, the last major bastion of the Iraqi opposition to Saddam in northern Iraq, while the Kurdish opposition forces have fled to bases in the mountains on the Iranian border and thousands of Kurds are seeking refuge in Iran. During the KDP's

occupation of Erbil, the building that once housed the Kurdish parliament has become the headquarters of Saddam's secret police.

A five-year experiment in autonomy and self-rule has thus come tumbling down. An historic opportunity for the people of Iraqi Kurdistan and for all Iraqis has been wasted. Those who hoped to change the regime in Baghdad and to do so on liberal-democratic principles have suffered a devastating blow. That is the meaning of what has been going on in northern Iraq since early September, and that remains its central meaning, no matter how many cruise missiles hit Saddam's largely ineffective air defence system, a system which has been irrelevant to his control over the country for the past five years.

How could I have been so wrong about Barzani? Why did the Iraqi opposition reach such an impasse? One way of thinking about what went wrong is that of "senior administration officials" of the Clinton administration who, the New York Times reports, say they have "done all they could, but were undermined by the Kurds' competing tribal, political and economic interests, by their ancient hatreds." No doubt the Kurdish leaders have a lot to answer for.

In the years before the May 1992 elections in Iraqi Kurdistan, the eight parties that formed the Iraqi Kurdistan Front had presented a united opposition to Saddam. The two largest parties, in particular, Barzani's KDP and Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) — today bitter enemies — cooperated very closely during the Iraqi uprising that followed the Gulf war and during the first few years of autonomous rule. Their alliance made possible the elections of 1992, and the formation of both a parliament and the council of ministers that administered the safe haven.

When I crossed the Turkish-Iraqi border in 1991, just after the Gulf war, I had

to deal with the security guards of one Kurdish organisation after another to move around northern Iraq. When I next crossed the border in October 1992, I was met by uniformed police of the new Kurdish administration, which combined members of different factions in the same police forces, security services, and administrative offices. Armed Kurdish guerrillas had been banned in the cities by an act of parliament, and many people told me that for the first time they felt they were physically secure.

By the time of my next visit, in May 1994, that had changed. It happened to coincide with the first armed hostilities between the KDP and the PUK, and like many others in the INC, I tried to mediate between the two. For four weeks I travelled around the country arranging the release of KDP prisoners held by the PUK, and PUK prisoners held by the KDP. Shortly after the original outbreak of fighting, Talabani's PUK took effective control of Erbil with its population of one million. The conflict between the two organisations has been growing nastier ever since.

The tensions between the two main Kurdish factions date back to Talabani's split from Mullah Mustafa Barzani's KDP during the 1970s. The hostility between them was not so much ideological as historical, sociological and, increasingly, personal.

Talabani is a skillful urban politician with strong connections to the Kurdish intelligentsia, particularly in Sulaymaniyah. Barzani's organisation, on the other hand, is based on the rural mountain clans.

Each group came to depend more and more on alliances with neighbouring countries. The KDP first made an alliance with Turkey, then with Iran, and now with Baghdad. The PUK first made an alliance with Iran in 1995. Each claims it needed to make these alliances if it was to have the supplies, trade, physical security and diplo-

matic support it required to survive. It is clear that Barzani used his position as Turkey's principal ally in northern Iraq to weaken the power of Talabani, who, for his part, said the KDP's monopoly of customs duties along the Iraqi-Turkish border put his own group at a disadvantage.

In making his alliance with Turkey, Barzani agreed to help curb the influence of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), the organisation of the Kurdish guerrillas in Turkey which, after the Gulf war, began maintaining bases in northern Iraq from where they launched terrorist attacks into Turkey. But the task of controlling the Kurdish Kurds was beyond the KDP. By early 1995 the PKK was hitting back, killing KDP members. Barzani was forced to negotiate a truce with the PKK, which greatly upset the Turkish government, causing it to withdraw its support.

Meanwhile, the various Kurdish security forces were no longer working together. Iraqi undercover agents became active again. In the summer of 1995 a bomb went off in Salahuddin killing 26 members of the Iraqi National Congress. Following several unsuccessful mediation efforts by the Congress, the PUK turned to Iran to intervene in its dispute with the KDP.

With the KDP weakened following the break-up of its alliance with Turkey, the PUK, beginning with August 17 this year, started a military campaign, with Iranian backing, that succeeded in taking over significant amounts of territory. Feeling that he was squeezed, and having repeatedly, and fruitfully, appealed to the U.S. for support (as had the PUK before him), Barzani, in a letter dated August 22, made his devil's pact with Saddam, inviting him into Erbil.

Contrary to the statements of the anonymous officials cited in the New York Times, the U.S., which with the help of British and

French aircraft was still conducting over flights of the safe-haven region, had been largely absent while all this was going on. At the State Department and White House, the main pre-occupation was with the Arab-Israeli "peace process." Iraq could wait. American neglect of the situation in the north and particularly the increasingly ugly conflict between Barzani and Talabani are both part of the collapse of the post Gulf war arrangements by which the U.S. sought to merely contain Saddam instead of actively trying to overthrow him. All the important issues in the current conflict go back to the unfinished business of the Gulf war, and the obsession with containment.

The Kurdish safe haven region in northern Iraq had two years of peaceful cooperation among different Kurdish factions, but it was never a workable political unit. Its parliament and ministries could never be more than a transitional arrangement, but a transition to what? Time passed. No one with any authority in Washington wanted to talk either about the future of Iraq or about establishing a secure and economically workable entity in the north. Good intentions expressed in Washington and London and the work of relief agencies could not turn a region of four million people into either a Kurdish country or the beginnings of a new Iraq.

Having set up the Kurdish entity, the allied coalition never gave it either the economic or the political support it needed to survive. As the parliament's ability to deliver services and organise a more productive economy dwindled, and as the allied coalition that had fought the Gulf war began to fall apart, power reverted to the militias of Barzani and Talabani. They, at least, had the guns with which to scramble for whatever financial resources and scraps of territory they could take over.

Nor did the Western allies give adequate support to the

efforts of the opposition forces, both Kurds and Arab, to use northern Iraq as a base from which to bring about the downfall of Saddam.

In March 1995, for example, approximately 1,000 of Saddam's soldiers defected to the Iraqi National Congress. The men were thin, hungry and cold; they had not had a decent meal in weeks. But the U.S., which has since sent 44 cruise missiles, each costing \$1 million, into southern Iraq, decided it could not afford \$250,000 to provide the soldiers with food and blankets for a year. They might have been kept as a potential force, but were soon dispersed.

Saddam moved into this deteriorating situation with the military audacity he has displayed in all his show-downs with the West. Not that he is any stronger militarily than he was before the Gulf war. The very effective sanctions have seen to that. His new-found strength is derived from the shambles of containment.

And this time, the political strategy and timing of the Iraqi president were shrewdly calculated. He now could say he was, after all, merely intervening inside his own territory to help his Kurdish friends in the KDP. And they could say they invited him in only to curb and contain Iranian influence in northern Iraq, something the U.S. and its allies would surely approve of.

What the tragedy now unfolding shows is that the Iraqi opposition still lacks the very element that Saddam's terror has so successfully created for him: a commitment to a whole that is larger than the sum of its parts, a commitment, in other words, to a convincing idea of Iraq.

Leading Iraqi dissident Kanan Makiya is author of "Republic of Fear" (under the pseudonym Samir Al Khalil), and "The Monument." This article is reprinted from The Observer.

Britain's yuppies are back on the rampage

LONDON (R) — Crowds in London wine bars spill onto the streets, raucous laughter interrupted only by the pop of champagne corks and the roar of the latest Porsche. British yuppies, resplendent in red braces, shoulder pads and designer suits, were almost wiped out by the economic austerity of the early 1990s. But they are making a comeback as the stock market hits record highs, city salaries

return to six figures and property prices in London bounce back.

"Bars and restaurants are packed every night again...and the customers seem even younger and richer this time around," said the manager of a crowded bar in London's financial district.

A product of the 1980s economic boom, yuppies (young upwardly-mobile professionals) flourished under Prime Minister Mar-

garet Thatcher, who encouraged the nouveau riche to flaunt their wealth.

Brash and super-affluent, they made a swift exit with their flash cars and filofaxes when the stock market crashed in 1987, sending city bonuses and house prices tumbling in its wake.

They were much maligned by the establishment, which scorned "new money" as vulgar and ostentatious. Now older and duller, the 1980s yuppies channel their much reduced salaries into unit trusts and private school fees.

But an arbitrary survey of luxury goods and service companies shows a new generation has succeeded them, every bit as noisy and equally keen to splash their cash in eye-catching ways.

TVR Engineering, British-based makers of the must-have Griffith, Chimera and Cerbera models which fill the car parks of London's financial district, boast the waiting list for new vehicles is spiralling upward.

"The waiting list has never been as long," said spokesman Ben Samuelson. "Over the last 12 months we've doubled our factory, we've done more work over the last year and you would still have

until next summer for a Cerbera."

But he was horrified at the suggestion that booming orders were proof the yuppies were back. "Driving a TVR is not about the pose. TVRs are something good to drive in...it's not a car to just cruise down the King's Road in London."

All beloved of the same sort of person, the TVR is a car to just cruise down the King's Road in London.

The average waiting list for some 911 models is now nine months compared with four last year, and while most mainstream car makers are struggling with flat sales in Britain, Porsche's are up 28 per cent on this time last year.

Tasting a return of the good times requires champagne, and sales of bubbly are soaring. The Champagne Information Bureau, a trade group for growers

and producers, reports that Britons guzzled over 60 million bottles in the first five months of the year, up 30 per cent on 1995.

"Consumption has been growing steadily for more than three years, but it has really taken off since last November," said Director Francoise Peretti. "People are buying more prestige vintage...Which is a sign they are looking for quality."

Wednesday, October 2, 1996

terol

on me



Palestinian women cry at the funeral of Tamer Al Masri, a 10-year-old boy who died Tuesday of wounds sustained in last week's Israeli-Palestinian clashes (Reuters photo)

Israeli closure stifles Palestinian life in West Bank

NABLUS (R) — Away from home when Israeli-Palestinian gun battles erupted last week, Saadi Ibrahim decided to defy an Israeli-imposed travel ban in the West Bank after he dreamed that his six-month-old daughter had drowned.

"I saw my baby Yaqin fall into a well and I woke up trembling," said Ibrahim. "I decided to return home, no matter what the risks were."

Setting out before dawn from the village of Bidya, where he had been confined by an internal Israeli closure imposed after the violence erupted, the 30-year-old construction worker arrived home to the village of Kufri Qallil some 35 kilo-

metres away at noon.

Accompanied by a friend, he walked along the hills for five-and-a-half hours trying to avoid Israeli army roadblocks scattered across the West Bank.

"We faced a lot to reach home. We endured humiliations by Israeli soldiers and I barely escaped from dogs guarding a Jewish settlement," said the father of five. "But I am so glad my daughter was safe."

Israel, which banned the entry of most Palestinians to its territory since Islamic suicide bombings in February and March, tightened travel restrictions on Arabs in the West Bank during last week's unrest.

Israeli troops ringed self-

ruled Palestinian cities with tanks and armoured vehicles and set up boulders and dirt barricades on main roads in the West Bank, cutting links between 450 communities.

Israeli authorities said the cities had been declared closed military areas as of Sept. 27 in an effort to maintain law and order. But a spokeswoman insisted that humanitarian needs were being handled through joint liaison channels.

"The army said that humanitarian issues are important and each case is dealt with and answered via the appropriate liaison bodies," an army spokeswoman said.

Palestinians say the clo-

sure has kept thousands stranded away from home, stifled the local economy and threatened to deprive them of health services.

"Human rights groups and non-governmental organisations express deep concern over the deteriorating human rights conditions in the occupied Palestinian territories," said a statement issued by eight groups.

In Nablus, where the closure was enforced by about 45 tanks pointing their guns at the city, Palestinians said factories were working at only 30 per cent capacity because workers from surrounding villages could not get to their jobs.

In the southern West Bank town of Hebron, an

18-month-old baby with leukemia who was being rushed to a Jerusalem hospital for a blood transfusion died after Israeli soldiers delayed him for an hour at a roadblock, human rights groups said.

The Palestinian media have also reported at least two cases of women giving birth at roadblocks when soldiers barred them from reaching hospitals.

The Palestinian health ministry appealed to the International Committee of the Red Cross to intervene to distribute medical supplies, including vaccines, to West Bank medical centres.

Washington summit gets off to 'a good start'

(Continued from page 1)

fact that we took up the president's kind offer, important offer, to come here and to try to put the peace process back on track," Mr. Netanyahu said. "This is what we are doing together."

But he brushed off a question on whether he would order the closure of the tunnel in Arab East Jerusalem whose opening last week sparked three days of violence involving Palestinian police and Israeli soldiers.

"You know our position. I don't think it would be wise to open up the discussion here," Mr. Netanyahu said. The Israeli prime minister has so far refused to budge on requests for the tunnel to be closed.

In his session with Mr. Clinton, the Israeli leader said violence was not an option in resolving differences, an Israeli source said. Mr. Netanyahu outlined his concern to Mr. Clinton about Palestinian police using weapons against Israeli troops last week, said the source, who briefed Israeli reporters on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Clinton told reporters the summit will end Wednesday with a statement but gave no indication what impact it might have. "Our role is to try to help people get together and move forward," Mr. Clinton said, adding "substantive decisions" have to be

made by the parties. "What the United States has done since I have been president is not to pressure anyone."

King Hussein has proposed appointing a commission to look into the various aspects over Mr. Netanyahu's decision last Tuesday to open a second entrance to the tunnel that winds around the Al Aqsa Mosque.

Asked whether he agreed with the King's proposal, President Clinton told reporters: "Well, His Majesty and I had a chance to speak about this very briefly, and we will be talking about it more. But, as a matter of policy, I think I should not comment on anything related to what we might be discussing today and tomorrow until we have finished because I don't want to say anything that even by accident might make our task more difficult."

"Our role is to try to help people get together and move forward," said the president. "The substantive decisions are decisions which have to be made by the people who live in the Middle East and who will share its future."

On his flight to Washington, Mr. Netanyahu said he was willing to accelerate and intensify negotiations with the Palestinians on completing implementation of the 1995 Oslo self-rule agreements if Mr. Arafat will guarantee an end to

anti-Israeli violence.

"I call upon the two parties to meet at an appropriate venue for intensive and continuous negotiations until we reach an accord," he said, saying the talks should focus at first on Israel's long-overdue withdrawal from the Hebron.

Under the peace agreement signed 12 months ago in Washington by Mr. Arafat and the late Israeli Labour leader Yitzhak Rabin, Israel was to hand 80 per cent of Hebron over to the Palestinians, leaving only a small army forces to protect some 450 Jewish settlers living in the city of 120,000.

Mr. Netanyahu wants significant modifications to the plan to improve the safety of the settlers, while the Palestinians have ruled out any but minor changes.

The issue was dramatically complicated by last week's fighting.

It was far from clear early Tuesday if Mr. Netanyahu's offer to pick up the pace of negotiations without offering specific measures or a timetable for implementation of outstanding self-rule accords would suffice.

Chief Palestinian peace negotiator Saeb Erekat said before coming to Washington that the Palestinians wanted the summit to yield "deeds not more words" after four months of stalling and backtracking by Mr. Netanyahu's right-wing coalition government.

Britain backs King's call

(Continued from page 1)

responsibility....

"I think it was evidence of a grave deterioration in the relationship between the Israelis and the Palestinians," said the British foreign secretary, adding that he hoped that Mr. Netanyahu "can help revive the peace process in an imaginative way."

Mr. Rifkind, whose country was alone among fellow members of the European

Union (EU) in welcoming Tuesday's Arab-Israeli summit in Washington, said the meeting should "deal with the immediate cause of the drama of the last few days and that involves some agreement on the tunnel...."

Simultaneously, he said, it was more important to relaunch the peace process itself.

Norwithstanding international criticism as pressure on the Israeli gov-

ernment, said Mr. Rifkind, the only real choice facing both sides was to advance the peace process or to herald more violence.

"The Israelis, and for that matter the Palestinians, are in a cul-de-sac. There is nowhere else to go other than the peace process. So the real choice is either taking forward the peace process now, or seeing renewed outbreaks of violence which go on for months or years." "There is no alternative for either Israelis or Palestinians," he added.

Amnesty says widespread human rights violations in Turkey in name of security

International watchdog also censures guerrilla groups for 'deliberate and arbitrary' killings in the name of liberation

Amnesty International Report

THE 1990S HAVE seen a steady erosion of human rights in Turkey with the authorities attempting to excuse, ignore or cover up the abuses — like torture, political killings and "disappearances" — in the name of national security, Amnesty International said Tuesday as it launched a worldwide campaign on human rights violations in the country.

"Why are these terrible things allowed to go on in Turkey — a society with traditions of tolerance, a history of parliamentary democracy, whose people are admired and respected for their kindness and hospitality by all who visit the country?" asked Pierre Sané, Secretary General of Amnesty International.

"Why doesn't the Turkish government take steps to protect its citizens from its security forces? The international intergovernmental organisations also have a responsibility here: The Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the United Nations know what Amnesty International knows about the torture, killing and disappearance — why do they choose not to act?"

Amnesty International's new report published today documents the crescendo of human rights violations in Turkey during the 1990s, and highlights the urgent need for legal reforms and governmental and international action.

"Widespread human rights violations are taking place not only in the southwest but everywhere in Turkey. On the pretext of guaranteeing

state security, the Turkish state is failing to safeguard its citizens' own security," Mr. Sané said.

"We don't understand how measures which permit torture — including the torture of people detained on suspicion of common criminal offences, of vulnerable people, of children and of handicapped persons — can contribute to the security of the state. On the contrary, these abhorrent practices put all Turkish citizens at risk."

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture (ECPT) has described the incidence of torture and ill-treatment in Turkey as "widespread". The U.N. Committee on Torture used the terms "systematic."

The 1990s presented Turkish citizens with unprecedented grounds for fear. Extrajudicial executions and disappearances began to be committed on the streets of Istanbul and the capital Ankara, as well as in the cities of the Southeast, scene of a 12-year-old conflict with the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). In 1995 a U.N. working group stated that Turkey had been the country with the highest number of reported disappearances in the world in 1994.

The assault on freedom of expression has taken a further turn for the worse. While the risk of being imprisoned for expressing opinions decreased during the 1990s, journalists now face a real risk of disappearing or being shot dead or beaten to death for their professional activities.

The human rights organisation also expressed concern about the use of the Anti-Terror Law to prosecute and imprison writers, publishers and politicians for expressing

opinions displeasing to the state.

After little more than cosmetic changes to the law in late 1995, we fear that imprisonments are beginning once again, Mr. Sané said. In August 1996 publisher Ayse Nur Zarakolu began serving a six-month sentence under the Anti-Terror Law for her publishing activities. Former parliamentary deputy Ibrahim Aksoy has been imprisoned in Ankara Central Closed Prison for his speeches and writings since October 1995.

Also in August 1996 a warrant was issued for the arrest of Mehdi Zana, former prisoner of conscience. Hundreds of other Turkish citizens face possible imprisonment under the Anti-Terror Law — including 184 of Turkey's leading writers, artists and publishers indicted in a single trial at Istanbul State Security Court.

Successive Turkish governments have failed to fulfil the obligations they have freely entered into under international law. Police and gendarmes enjoy impunity because they are regarded as the guardians of the state, and it appears that the Turkish state is enjoying a similar exemption from scrutiny, criticism and sanction by the international community because of its strategic position as a border guard of the western world, as well as because of its commercial and economic might, Mr. Sané said.

We want to remind the international community and those countries which have special relations with Turkey of their obligation to ensure that, if Turkey continues to refuse to cooperate with international human rights bodies, then action must be

taken to hold Turkey to account.

Amnesty International is also calling on countries selling arms and military equipment to Turkey to make sure that the arms and equipment they supply is not used to commit human rights violations. The human rights organisation has documented the use of U.S. and U.K.-made helicopters and armoured cars in operations of massive human rights violations by the security forces in Kurdish-populated areas of the Southeast.

Amnesty International's report also gives information about human rights abuses by armed opposition groups. Illegal opposition groups which have turned to violence to pursue their political aims have killed unarmed civilians who took no part in the conflict. They have also killed their own members in the name of the party, killed Kurdish peasants in the name of liberation and killed Muslims in the name of Islam. Groups responsible for such violations include the PKK, DHKP-C, TIKKO and IBDA-C. Some of these groups have deliberately and arbitrarily killed non-combatant women, children and prisoners.

Amnesty International has strongly and publicly condemned such abuses. In the past three years there was some reduction in the number of civilians killed by the PKK but the killings continue and Amnesty International's members will therefore continue to maintain their pressure.

In contrast with the dramatic facts exposed, Amnesty International's report states that the conditions exist in Turkey for reforms which could decisively change the

situation. The human rights organisation is putting forward a set of recommendations to the Turkish Government with a view to substantially reducing the scope of human rights violations. These recommendations are:

- to conduct thorough and impartial investigations into all the cases of reported disappearances in security forces custody and extrajudicial executions;
- to ensure that prisoners are guarded by officers under the authority of the ministry of justice and never by police or gendarmes officers;
- to release immediately and unconditionally all prisoners of conscience;
- to give access to legal counsel to all the detainees, including those detained on suspicion of offences under the Anti-Terror Law;
- to reduce the maximum period of police detention, currently 30 days, so that detainees are brought before a judge without delay;
- to abolish incommunicado detention;
- to instruct judges that imprisonment for expression of non-violent opinions violates international treaties signed by Turkey; and
- not to apply the legal provisions which permit the government to block prosecutions of security forces personnel in cases of extrajudicial execution, disappearance, torture or ill-treatment by police or other civil servants.

"In summary, we are asking the Turkish government to do no more than to apply the international legislation it has freely ratified as well as the domestic laws intended to protect the fundamental rights of Turkish citizens," Mr. Sané said.

Mubarak

(Continued from page 1)

ingtoo. In an interview published Tuesday by the Israeli daily Maariv newspaper, Mr. Mubarak said he urged Mr. Arafat to attend during their meeting Monday.

"I told him, you must go. You must explain your position. He said to me, they will pressure me in Washington. I replied, how will they pressure you? After all, you're acting

for the good of your people," Mr. Mubarak told Maariv.

He also said his decision to "stay away was partly to satisfy Egyptian public opinion, which was against his going after the violence against Palestinians."

Mr. Mubarak told reporters that by joining the summit, he feared giving credence to Mr. Netanyahu's remarks blaming the Palestinians entirely for the outbreak of violence.

Foreign Minister Amr Musa also said Egypt decided to skip

the summit in Washington when it saw that Mr. Netanyahu would be inflexible.

"It was clear that he does not want to move and does not want to change his attitude. All his positions were constant and total 'noes'," Mr. Musa told the London-based newspaper Al Hayat.

"If this was the position he was going to take in the summit, then the summit... would meet with rejection, serious rejection by Israel," he added.

Israel tries to play down criticism

(Continued from page 1)

letter, as summarised in the embassy statement, did not refer to all to Jordan's complaint that Israel was not abiding by the provisions of agreements with the Kingdom, including the October 1994 peace treaty and the Washington Declaration.

In both documents, Israel acknowledged Jordan's "special role" in Islamic holy sites in Arab Jerusalem. As such, Jordan argued, Israel was duty-bound to inform the Kingdom of any of its plans that had any relevance to the holy sites — something Israel did not do.

In its letter on Tuesday, Israel defended itself against Jordanian criticism by citing technical and commercial aspects of the tunnel and reaffirming its "wholehearted commitment" to the Middle East peace process.

Israel asserted that that its moves vis-a-vis the tunnel did not violate its agreements with the Palestinians and that the structure does not pose any threat to the Islamic holy sites and that the project did not involve confiscation of private property in the Holy City.

His Majesty King Hussein has acknowledged that the opening of a new entrance to the tunnel that runs along the Al Aqsa Mosque compound did not appear to pose any structural threat. But the King emphasised that the move had to do with

the issue of sovereignty over Arab East Jerusalem.

The statement issued by the Israeli embassy in Amman said the letter reiterated Israel's "total and wholehearted commitment to the continuation of the peace process" and "pointed out that in the course of Israel's many contacts with the Arab World (and even before the recent incidents took place), Israel referred to steps it was taking in order to advance the peace process."

Among the steps that the letter cited were the meetings between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat — who it titled "chairman of the Palestinian Council" — and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr. Arafat and Israeli defence minister Yitzhak Mordechai, the setting up of a common agenda to "complete the implementation of the interim (autonomy) agreement," periodical easing of the blockade of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the establishment of a steering committee to resolve outstanding issues.

"These steps give evidence of Israel's continued commitment to achieve peace with the Palestinians," said the embassy statement.

As to the reopening of the tunnel itself, the statement asserted that "the restoration of the tunnel was undertaken as part of an ongoing effort by Israel both to reveal major archaeological

finds in Jerusalem and to improve the tourism infrastructure of the Old City."

"The tunnel itself, which dates back from ancient times, allows pedestrians to enter one of the oldest subterranean paths in Jerusalem from the Western Wall plaza and exit onto the Via Dolorosa," it said. "No part of the tunnel runs underneath the Temple Mount," it added, using the Israeli name for the Haram Al Sharif complex which houses the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques.

According to the Israeli statement, the 488-metre tunnel was "re-excavated under the supervision of archaeologists and engineers," and "no archaeological or religious sites were damaged in its construction." "The tunnel's restoration did not endanger any buildings or other structures in the Old City," and "no private property was expropriated, condemned or otherwise confiscated in order to accomplish this project," said the statement.

It also asserted that the "restoration of the tunnel did not violate the interim agreement between Israel and the Palestinians as archaeological restorations in Jerusalem are not covered by the document."

"The opening of the tunnel will increase the access by tourists to the Via Dolorosa from the Western Plaza, thereby benefiting merchants in the Muslim Quarter," it said.

IMF predicts 6.5 per cent growth for Jordan in '96

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Developing countries will post growth of more than six per cent this year and next in response to economic recovery in Mexico and Argentina, stronger momentum in Africa and a more sustainable pace in Asia, the IMF has said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its semi-annual World Economic Outlook report, found that Chile would be the best performer in Latin America, with a growth rate of 7.4 per cent in 1996.

The IMF also found that Brazil has begun to check its inflation, which should come to 12.3 per cent in 1996.

In Mexico, which saw a seven per cent contraction in gross domestic product in 1995 in the wake of its currency crisis, growth should come to 3.6 per cent this year.

Argentina is also likely to post positive growth this year of 2.5 per cent after a 4.4 per cent decline in 1995. Inflation will likely be held to 0.3 per cent, its lowest level in 15 years.

In Africa, where growth should come to five per cent this year after three per cent in 1995, the IMF has also detected positive trends as countries experience the benefits of structural reform and lower inflation.

Consumer prices in Africa are likely to rise 21.3 per cent this year after increasing 32.1 per cent in 1995.

The IMF found that South Africa would have solid four per cent growth in 1996 despite high rates of unemployment.

Growth would come to 9.2 per cent in Morocco, following minus 6.9 per cent last year, while in Algeria gross domestic product is projected to expand by 4.2 per cent, with inflation held to 16.9 per cent, down from 30 per cent in 1995.

In the Middle East, the IMF said the Israeli economy will grow by 5.1 per cent this year and

that of Jordan by 6.5 per cent.

In Asia the strong growth rates of the last two years, 9.1 and 8.6 per cent, should slow to around eight per cent in the face of budgetary restrictions applied in several countries to avert overheating.

Inflation among Asian developing countries should be held to 7.9 per cent in 1996, compared with 10.9 per cent last year.

China's unsustainable growth rates of the early 1990s have been scaled back to around nine per cent, according to the report.

But the IMF urged stepped up reforms in the public sector to ensure continued progress in the campaign against inflation.

Consumer prices in China are expected to rise nine per cent this year after 10.2 per cent in 1995. The World Economic Outlook said after five years of declines, countries switching to free-market systems could see their economies stabilise in 1996 and grow four per cent next year.

Eight "transition" countries are poised to experience growth greater than five per cent in 1996. They include Poland, the Czech and Slovak republics, Georgia and Armenia.

Russia's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to decline 1.3 per cent in 1996, but conditions are in place for a rise in 1997, said the IMF, which signed a \$10 billion support programme for Russian economic reforms this year.

Russian inflation, meanwhile, is expected to be 51 per cent in 1996, down from 190 per cent the previous year. Prices even declined slightly in August, IMF said.

The GDP of Ukraine is expected to decline eight per cent, down from 17.8 per cent last year. Bulgaria, with an unchanged GDP and an inflation rate of 73 per cent, is saddled with a deficit

that frightens banks.

Inflation has plunged in the Baltic republics, and prices have almost stabilised in Croatia.

Hungary saw a contraction in its GDP — a 1.2 per cent increase in 1996 compared with a 1.5 per cent increase the previous year — as a result of a tighter fiscal policy and the slowdown in Europe.

The World Economic Outlook said the United States could face rising wage and price pressures and would benefit from tighter monetary policies.

President Bill Clinton has argued that with gains in worker productivity the U.S. economy can maintain strong growth rates and low unemployment without aggravating inflation.

In the absence of clear inflationary signs, the U.S. central bank last week decided to leave its key federal funds rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent.

But according to the IMF: "Margins of unused resources in the economy appear to be virtually exhausted and the unemployment rate has fallen to a level that in the past has been associated with rising wage and price pressures."

"In these circumstances, some tightening of monetary conditions would seem appropriate to reduce the risk of a pickup in inflation that would require more severe and potentially more disruptive policy actions at a later stage," the report pointed out.

The IMF, which predicted economic growth of 2.4 per cent in the United States this year and 2.3 per cent in 1997, also urged the Clinton administration to undertake further efforts to balance the federal budget.

Consumer price hikes in both years were forecasted at 2.8 per cent

Women exceed men in most management skills — study

WASHINGTON (R) — Women do a better job than men in 28 of 31 key management categories, including keeping productivity high and generating ideas, but they do poorly at handling frustration, a new study has reported.

This was a departure from traditional presumptions, which credit women with being nurturing team players at work but not with skills associated with top management, one of the study's authors told Reuters.

"Women have traditionally been given credit for being good in terms of intuitive skills... and the study confirmed that they do well and outperform men in that area," said Janet Irwin, who wrote the study distributed by the non-profit

Foundation for Future Leadership.

"But the study also showed that women were even stronger in more logic-based skills like... getting things done on time, producing high-quality work, generating ideas, problem-solving and planning," Ms. Irwin said.

Women were even with men in one area — delegating responsibility — and were behind in the ability to handle pressure and cope with their own frustration, the study said.

Ms. Irwin said only two per cent of chief executive officers at major U.S. corporations were women, which means the study could be a "wake-up call for corporate America."

"If we're going to win the war for an improved econo-

my, a strong economy, creating better jobs and more jobs, we're going to need women... in those top slots," Ms. Irwin said.

The study did not aim to single out gender differences at the outset but rather to identify leadership abilities. Clear differences between men and women became apparent as the data were analysed, she said.

The study reviewed 6,403 questionnaires dealing with 915 corporate workers. The workers themselves filled out the questionnaires, as did their supervisors, subordinates and peers. The proportion of men to women was 70 per cent to 30 per cent, about the same ratio as in the overall U.S. management workforce, Ms. Irwin said.

The 31 areas of manage-

ment ability surveyed were broken down into seven categories: Problem-solving, planning, controlling, managing self, managing relationships, leading and communicating. While women did better than men in 28 of the 31 and excelled by a wide margin in 25, they were behind in a key area that was not part of the study: Self-promotion.

"Women, I think, have been raised traditionally to be good little girls and... women translate that to mean, 'if I just do a good job, people will come around and notice me and give me rewards for it,' and that just isn't the case," Ms. Irwin said. "Women have to be more assertive in demanding recognition for their efforts."

Gas project puts pressure on Qatar

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A project launched by Qatar to tap its enormous gas resources has begun to put pressure on the Gulf state's economy as it finds itself forced to seek funds from abroad, an official report has showed.

Loans from banks in Japan and other countries for the biggest liquefied natural gas (LNG) venture in the world bumped up Qatar's debt to around \$5.5 billion at the end of 1995 from \$3.98 billion at the end of 1994, the Arab Corporation for Investment Guarantee (ACIG) said.

The increase pushed up the ratio of the debt to the gross domestic product (GDP) to around 77 per cent from 57 per cent while debt servicing jumped to 19.9 per cent from

nine per cent, the Arab League affiliate said.

The ratio between debt servicing to exports also doubled to around 44 per cent from 22 per cent in the same period.

"These levels show that the Qatar debt servicing is a heavy burden on the country's economy. It also negatively affects the current account," the ACIG report said.

From around \$1.3 billion in 1994, the deficit in the current account soared to \$1.95 billion in 1995. This boosted its level to 27.2 per cent of the GDP from 19.2 per cent, ACIG said in a study.

It showed the Qatari current account suffered from a large shortfall despite the large capital inflow, which totalled

15.9 billion Qatari riyals (\$4.35 billion). They included around 24.2 per cent in foreign investment.

Qatar has been involved in three joint projects with foreign partners to exploit its North Field, the biggest single reservoir of natural gas in the world. It holds an estimated 7.1 trillion cubic metres (236.6 trillion cubic feet).

The projects, one of which will start production in 1997, will produce between 16 million and 21 million tonnes when all are completed in 2005.

To get the projects off the ground, Qatar has struck supply deals with customers from Japan and South Korea while it reached letters of intent for LNG exports to Thailand, India and other countries.

In 1995, the government-controlled Qatargas, one of the key LNG ventures, signed its biggest loan for \$2 billion with Japanese and European banks while it borrowed another \$200 million from the Japanese Export-Import Bank to finance gas storage operations.

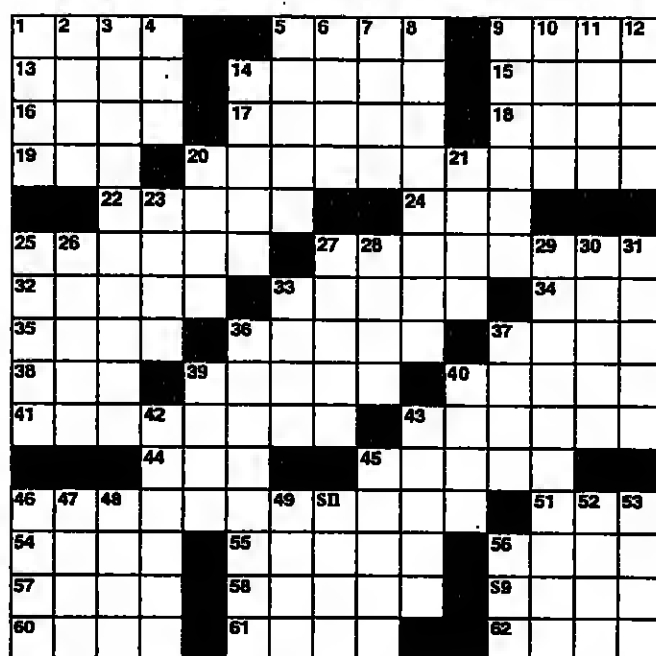
THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins

ACROSS

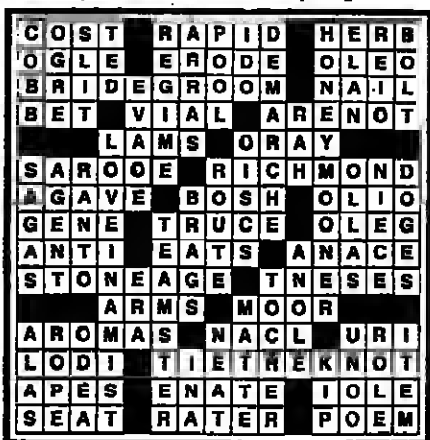
- 1 Chess piece
- 5 Julie Christie role
- 9 Burden
- 13 Turkish title
- 14 — system
- 15 Hay unit
- 16 Check
- 17 Upright
- 18 Sea eagle
- 19 Founded: abbr.
- 20 Andrew Greeley's fictional priest
- 22 Funny DeGeneres
- 24 — Magnon
- 25 Louisiana waters
- 27 JD or Pierra
- 32 Michael Caine film
- 33 Refuge
- 34 Unity
- 35 Author Anite
- 36 Carries
- 37 Ancient, affectedly
- 38 Big —, CA
- 39 Mail, e.g.
- 40 Artist's subject
- 41 Ell, often
- 43 White water, area
- 44 Sleuth, for short
- 45 Blaspheme
- 46 Sweet lady of song
- 51 Crone
- 54 King toppers
- 55 Longest river of France
- 56 Reveal
- 57 Laurel, for one
- 58 External
- 59 Novelist Wistar
- 60 Wine
- 61 Hwy.
- 62 Midge

DOWN

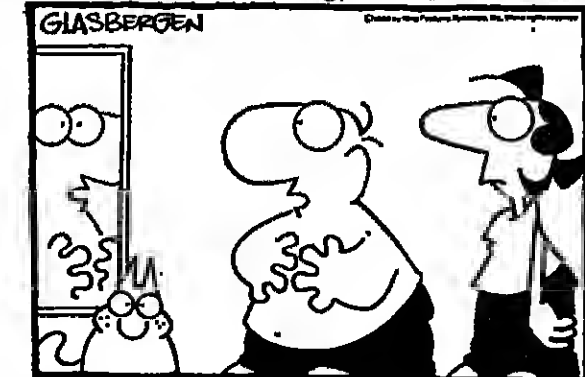
- 1 Peel
- 2 Notable periods
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- 4 A Bobsey twin
- 5 Navigational device
- 6 "Smart" guy
- 7 Pool necessity
- 8 Some are daffinits
- 9 Titania's husband
- 10 Not one
- 11 Forearm bone
- 12 Observed
- 14 Tennis champ, Monica
- 20 Sad
- 21 Emerald Isle
- 23 Clark's girl
- 25 Light wood
- 26 Vocally
- 27 "...Miss Muffet — a tuffet"
- 28 Declare
- 29 "Cactus Flower" actress
- 30 Concluded
- 31 Dances
- 33 Ecco —
- 36 French flag
- 37 Blunderer's
- 39 Suit to —
- 40 Queen of Scots
- 42 — Fair (1952 hit song)
- 43 More impolite
- 45 Womies
- 46 File
- 47 Numerical prefix
- 48 Char
- 49 Joint ailment
- 50 Ceremony
- 52 Type of code
- 53 Well-bred chap
- 56 Cranberry or peat area



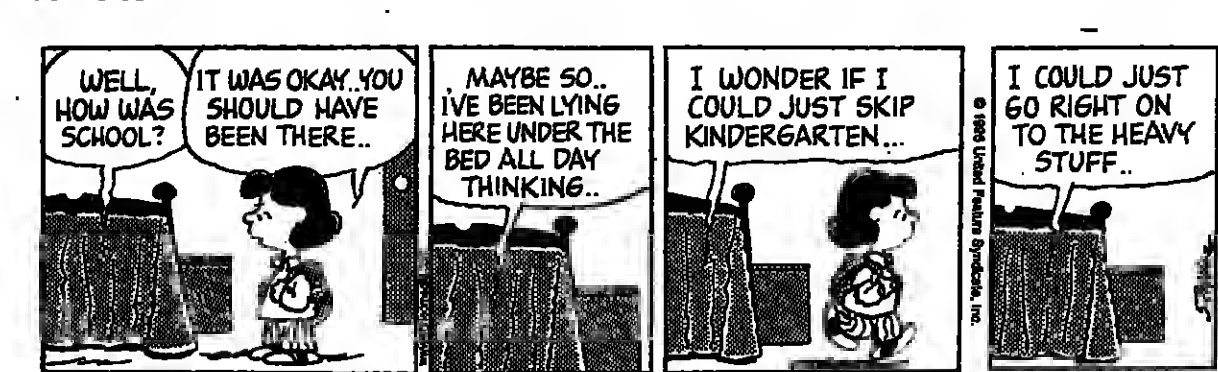
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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



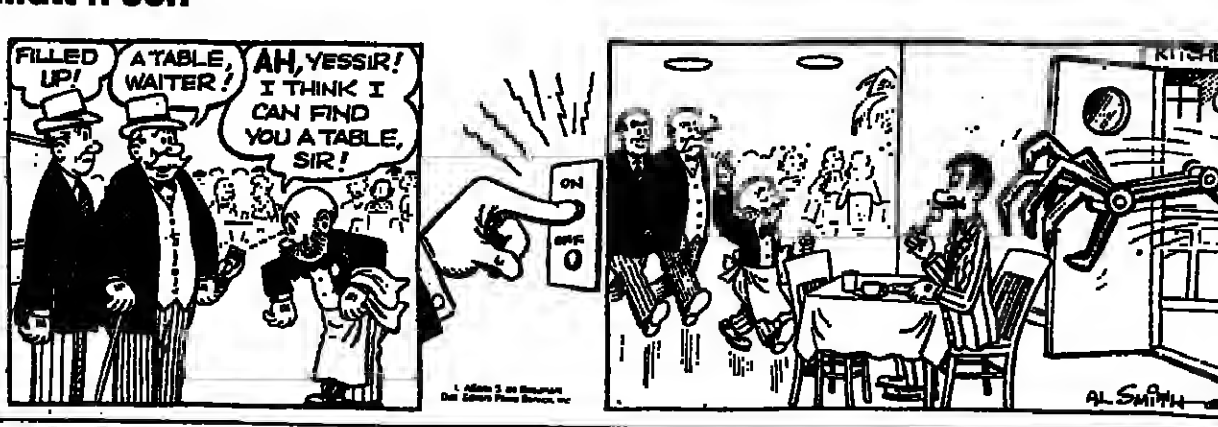
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 2, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Quietly handle today whatever chances to advance in your career activities come your way. You can benefit greatly from them. Later this evening will be good for you to meet with those in authority and discuss new projects.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Plan how to assist a good friend today who has a strange difficulty and you get fine cooperation from this person with your career activities. This evening will be quite successful if you meet with those in authority.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can express your finest talents today in the business world and gain success through your career activities. Be careful later this evening in handling credit matters so that you will have extra funds for the days ahead.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Handling new interests is fine today provided you plan wisely how best to proceed first in whatever are your business concerns. Later this evening you can complete any new project in efficient manner and gain much success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can have to make changes in whatever you are doing for your mate today, so go along with them cheerfully and you can handle any situation. Later this evening will be good for your success in your career activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You get more data about pending projects today, and you can become more successful with them if you do consult with a knowledgeable person. Later this evening you can meet with close friends and have a wonderful time.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day today to brighten up your surroundings and be more comfortable. Listen to suggestions from fellow associates concerning your career activities and use whatever is mentioned to your best advantage.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your plans with your mate have to be revised in the evening, however this happens for the best. In the morning today you can meet with knowledgeable people and handle any situation which is present for you to succeed.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are able today to make your home more charming and harmonious for those who live under your roof. Have a dinner party tonight and invite those close friends who can make the evening a festive time for you.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study correspondence well today before you answer them and be inspired by wise thoughts. Later this evening will be good for you to meet with a bigwig and discuss your career activities and how to make them more prosperous.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You see ways today of adding to present assets and income so make the best of this information and you can gain financial success. Wait until later this evening for the best possible results and don't rush into rash decisions.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have a good idea for gaining your cherished wishes today, so make every effort to make them a reality. This idea will snowball for great results so make the best of this situation in the days ahead for your success.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

Shareholders may breathe new life in Amman Bank for Investment next week

By Samir Ghawi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Negotiations that the Arab Bank has been holding with the Central Bank of Jordan to buy the troubled Amman Bank for Investment (ABI) were put on hold temporarily pending an ordinary and an extraordinary general assembly

meetings of the ABI shareholders next week.

The session will discuss the normal annual items that usually include the financial results for the year ending

on Dec. 31, 1995, the report of the auditor and the report of the board of directors.

However, the discussions at the extraordinary session will be extremely important as the decision to be taken

will determine the fate of ABI.

The agenda for the extraordinary session that will be held on Thursday, Oct. 10, 1996 covers the following:

1) Cancelling the general assembly decision taken last year to raise the ABI capital by JD 10 million.

2) Restructuring the capital by reducing the ABI capital from JD 15 million to JD 5 million in order to amortise losses, and then, raising it by JD 15 million to become JD 20 million.

3) Amending the Articles of Association and internal regulations.

The ABI's seventh annual report (1995) revealed that the bank's troubles were the result of leaked information about the amount that was recommended by an international and independent auditor to be taken as allocation for doubtful debts and investments.

"The information that was leaked about the reevaluation of the bank's assets had a great negative effect on the ABI shares which accelerated in a downward spiral," the report said pointing out that the situation prevented the board of directors from increasing the capital of the bank. As such, the report added, "the Central Bank moved to negotiate with one of the leading Jordanian banks to sell it ABI to ensure the safety of the banking system."

According to the report of the auditor, ABI has an accumulated loss of JD 32,771,184 as of Dec. 31, 1995. The deficit in the shareholders' equity is JD 15 million, the auditor said in the report. He noted that in accordance with the companies law, the bank is facing obligatory liquidation unless the general assembly decides to increase the capital.

The report said that the bank has taken JD 15 million of allocation for doubtful debt in 1995 and, consequently, the allocations taken in this regard become JD 23.3 million or 37 per cent of the overall outstanding credit facilities. By adding another JD 6.3 million of allocations on the investments of the bank the grand amount of allocations rise to JD 29.6 million.

The annual report concluded that the future programme of the bank will be to restructure the capital, obtain enough liquidity from the Central Bank during a transitional period, sell long-term investments over three years to generate liquidity, increase deposits, mainly from the private sector and concentrate on activating present loans and refraining from extending new credit facilities.

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates Prices as at 1/10/96 18:58

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.5263	0.6394	1.2542	111.35	1.3618	1521.40	1.7116	5.1706
DE Mark	0.6552	1.0000	0.4188	0.8218	72.96	0.8919	996.58	1.1217	3.3874
GB Sterling	1.5640	1.5640	1.0000	1.9615	174.20	2.1295	2379.47	2.8773	6.0668
FR Franc	0.1934	0.1934	0.2473	1.0000	65.63	1.0847	1212.08	136.42	4.1163
JP Yen	0.0090	1.3701	0.5736	1.1259	1.0000	1.2223	13.68	153.86	4.6415
CA Dollar	0.7344	1.1035	0.4696	0.9052	1.22	1.0000	1115.32	1.2386	3.7681
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0022	0.4196	0.8218	1.22	1.0000	1115.32	1.2386	3.7681
NL Guilder	0.5842	0.5842	0.2473	1.0000	65.63	1.0847	1212.08	136.42	4.1163
FR Franc	0.1934	0.1934	0.2473	1.0000	65.63	1.0847	1212.08	136.42	4.1163

Energy	Unit	Price	Change
Brent	23.25	23.80	0.00
WTI	24.10	24.15	0.00
Bony	23.35	23.60	0.00
Dubai	20.45	21.10	0.00
UL Gas	201.00	198.00	0.00

Metal Prices	Unit	Price	Change
Gold (oz)	378.5	379.1	0.6
Silver (oz)	4.91	4.93	0.02
Platinum (oz)	383.75	384.75	1.00
CU (3 Months) #NIA DR	N/A	N/A	N/A
CU (3 Months) #NIA OR	N/A	N/A	N/A
Zinc (3 Months) #NIA DR	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lead (3 Months) #NIA DR	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lead (3 Months) #NIA OR	N/A	N/A	N/A

Main Equity Indices	Index	Value	Change
New York	DOW JONES	5884.4	2.23
London	FTSE 100	3992.2	38.5
Paris	CAC 40	2123.21	9.6
Frankfurt	DAX	2655.73	3.85

Energy	Unit	Price	Change
Crude Oil	110	23.80	0.00
Crude Oil	110	24.15	0.00
Crude Oil	110	23.60	0.00
Crude Oil	110	21.10	0.00
Crude Oil	110	201.00	0.00

JOD Cross Rates	Unit	Price	Change
US Dollar	0.708	0.710	0.00
GB Sterling	1.070	1.070	0.00
DE Mark	0.4645	0.4688	0.00
CH Franc	0.5647	0.5673	0.00
FR Franc	0.1372	0.1379	0.00
JP Yen	0.0090	0.0090	0.00
NL Guilder	0.4137	0.4158	0.00
IT Lira	0.4643	0.4668	0.00

REUTERS

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Daily

A review of news from the Arabic

Lack of incentives discourages research, development activities at Jordanian industries

** MOST JORDANIAN industries have no research and development activities because of the absence of government incentives to undertake such programmes, said Munif Hijazi, a consultant who was engaged by the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation to assist in a study on Jordan's food industries. The consultant indicated that the absence of competition to Jordanian products in the local market, due to customs protection, has wiped out the incentives to develop the Jordanian products and to achieve higher competitiveness in export markets.

He pointed out that the inability of the Jordanian food industries to strongly venture into new markets was due to the absence of market strategies at most of the industries and the lack of information in Jordan about non-traditional markets. According to Mr. Hijazi, there are no qualified marketing personnel in Jordan who are capable to change the factors that create or intensify the hindrances to the entry of Jordanian products and goods to new markets.

Noting that Jordanian food industries have their exports limited to traditional market, Dr. Hijazi observed that these industries give much importance to the local market but not the same degree of interest to outside markets. The consultant stressed the customs tariff as being one of the most factors that should be studied to enter the export markets. Luckily, he said, Jordan as one of the developing countries is included in the list of most countries which adopt the generalised system of preferences (GSP). Furthermore, the GATT agreement has allowed its member states to implement the exemptions mentioned in the said system. The GSP gives the privilege of a reduction in customs tariffs to the lowest level and even the exemption may not normally include the processed agricultural products and the value added tax.

Among other important factors related to external trade, Dr. Hijazi listed the quota system. He explained that this quota is applied in most countries and that it must not be exceeded in terms of quantity or value because otherwise, higher customs tariffs will be imposed on the extra amounts.

Special documents are required by other countries such as certificates of origin or an import permit as the case is in eastern European countries and the Commonwealth of Independent States (AI Aswaq).

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Tyson ordered to pay ex-trainer \$4 million

NEW YORK (AFP) — Mike Tyson, who parted company with Kevin Rooney when he talked to the press about the world heavyweight champion's marriage to actress Robin Givens, was ordered to pay his ex-trainer \$4.1 million on Monday.

A court in Albany ruled that the world heavyweight champion did not have just cause to sack Rooney in 1988.

Rooney had accused the boxer of failing to honour a verbal contract made by Tyson's late mentor, Cus D'Amato, promising him a lifetime job with a guaranteed 10 per cent cut of the boxer's winnings.

Tyson's lawyer said the boxer knew nothing about such a contract.

"I am going to appeal this



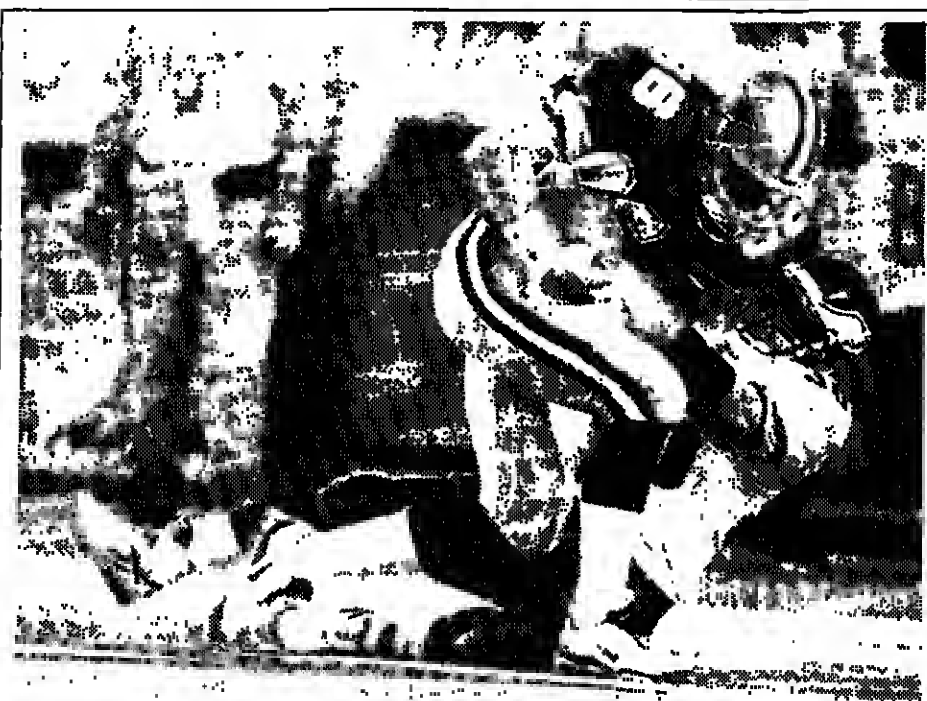
Mike Tyson

unjust decision," Tyson said.

Rooney, who had sued for \$49 million, said: "I never expected \$49 million but you can't take blood from a stone. They came in with

what they feel is a just verdict and I'm not going to argue with it."

Tyson added: "If Kevin would have asked me for four million dollars I would have given it to him."



Eric Bjornson (L) from the Dallas Cowboys scores a touchdown as Michael Zordich from the Philadelphia Eagles tries to pull him down in the first quarter of NFL action in Philadelphia on. Dallas won 23 to 19 (Reuters photo)

Wright apologises for Pleat comments

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal striker Ian Wright on Monday apologised to Sheffield Wednesday manager David Pleat for his remarks about him in a national newspaper.

Wright allegedly called Pleat "a pervert" following criticism from Pleat in Arsenal's 4-1 win over Wednesday in a recent Premiership match at the north London club.

Pleat called for an inquiry after Wright was caught on television pulling the dreadlocks of Wednesday's Dutchman Regi Blinker and stamping on Yugoslav defender Dejan Stefanovic.

The FA have written to Wright asking for his observations on the comments, which referred to newspaper revelations nine years ago that Pleat was cautioned by police three times for kerf-crawling.

Wright said on sky TV: "It was said in a jovial manner at the end of a very long day. People were firing all sorts of questions and I didn't think it would be published."

"It was just a joke. I didn't think it would come out that way," said the Gunners' striker. "It was not meant to offend anyone and I can't apologise enough. I have spoken to David Pleat and I'm very pleased that he accepted my apology."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Celtic warn Van Hooydonk

EDINBURGH (AFP) — Celtic Monday warned Pierre Van Hooydonk to learn humility or quit the club. Manager Tommy Burns and chairman Fergus McCann were united in their stance with the Dutchman who has made himself unpopular with the club officials. And Burns made it crystal clear that the Dutchman, who the club say wants a transfer unless granted a wage increase, must climb down or leave Celtic. Van Hooydonk hit out at Celtic in various media interviews over the weekend after he was left out of Saturday's old firm match with Rangers despite being fit to play. On Monday Burns, who dismissed doubts about his own contractual position at Celtic, also revealed he would not have selected Van Hooydonk against Rangers even if he had not been in dispute with the player. Celtic reject the striker's claim that he has not asked for a move and insisted Van Hooydonk has not been fulfilling various contractual duties such as speaking to the media and undertaking charity work. Asked what Van Hooydonk has to do to revive his Celtic career, after scoring 52 goals since arriving from Nac Breda in January 1995, Burns said succinctly: "Learn humility."

Austria's Mader injured

VIENNA (R) — Austria's Guenther Mader must take a 10 to 14-day break from training after injuring a ligament but should be fit again for the start of the Alpine Skiing World Cup next month. Mader's doctor Andreas Lotz said on Monday the 32-year-old veteran had suffered a small tear in the upper side ligament of his left leg when he twisted his ankle during fitness training in Innsbruck last Friday. But coach Robert Trenkwalder believes Mader, runner-up in the overall World Cup standings in 1995 and 1996, should recover in time for the opening giant slalom on a glacier at Soelden on October 27. "I am optimistic that he will be fit again for Soelden," Trenkwalder said.

Edberg pulls out of Lyon tourney

LYON (R) — A bout of flu has forced Stefan Edberg out of the Lyon Grand Prix which began on Monday. Organisers said he had telephoned them to say he would not be fit to play until the weekend. Edberg, seeded seven, rejected an offer to have his first round match postponed until Wednesday.

Malaysia to ask IAAF to change World Cup dates

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia will try to persuade the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) to change the dates for the 1998 World Cup to avoid a clash with the Commonwealth games.

"I think there is still room for us to persuade them," Muhyiddin Yassin, the youth and sports minister, said Tuesday.

Muhyiddin was responding to IAAF President Primo Nebiolo's warning that the Commonwealth games must fit in with the world athletics body.

The three-day World Cup will open in Johannesburg on September 11. The Commonwealth games athletics in Kuala Lumpur are scheduled for September 13-20.

Malaysian Amateur Athletics Association President Khalid Yunus and Malaysian Olympic Council President Hamzah Abu Samah, who have been assigned to negotiate with the IAAF, have yet to speak to Nebiolo.

"We have not given up hope and I believe they will continue with the efforts," Muhyiddin said. "It's still not too late because we have two years... until then we hope there will be a change in the IAAF's stand."

Muhyiddin said they would not propose a change of the Commonwealth games athletics dates although the IAAF had initially promised there would be at least a week between the World Cup and the games.

"I am still worried that the athletes will choose one of the two meets and priority is sure to be given to the World Cup," said Muhyiddin, referring to the IAAF's decision to introduce "substantial" prize money.

"If this happens we will not be able to attract the world champions to the Commonwealth games," Muhyiddin added.

Red Sox fire manager

BOSTON (R) — The Boston Red Sox Monday fired manager Kevin Kennedy, one year after he led the team to the American League East title.

The Red Sox had a disastrous 6-19 start to the season but came on strong to challenge for a wild card playoff spot. They fell short in the last week, finishing third with an 85-77 record.

It is the second time in three seasons that Kennedy, 42, has been fired. The Texas Rangers dismissed him after the 1994 season.

Kennedy led Boston to an 86-58 record in 1995, his first season in Boston, before being swept in the division series by the Cleveland Indians.

Kennedy spent two seasons in Texas and has a career managerial record of 309-273 after four seasons.

Kennedy became the second managerial casualty of the day. The Philadelphia Phillies fired Jim Fregosi earlier in the day.

Umpires threaten walkout for baseball playoffs

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Major League baseball umpires threatened to boycott the playoffs beginning Tuesday because of the delayed suspension given to Baltimore Orioles second baseman Roberto Alomar, who spat on an umpire.

The dispute was expected to end up in court.

Umpires union chief Richie Phillips said Monday that crews will boycott games if Alomar — who apologised for spitting in umpire John Hirschbeck's face — is allowed to play.

Alomar received a five-game suspension after Friday's incident, but appealed, and played Saturday. But Hirschbeck sat out Saturday's game, where he was scheduled to work.

Espn television, citing current Umpire Association President Jerry Crawford, said Major League baseball would seek a court injunction mandating the umpires work the playoff games.

According to the report, owners and the two league presidents were to go to court seeking a ruling that would have umpires in place for the first game at 1 p.m. (1700 gmt) in Baltimore.

"All the umpires in the American League and National League were polled by their crew chiefs," Phillips said. "The umpires of both leagues voted unanimously not to perform service during the division series."

"We will have these

Spotlight on race in Italian national squad

ROME (AFP) — Italy are set to field their first black footballer of the modern era this week, but Foggia defender Dayo Joseph Oshadogan believes his country is not yet a truly multi-racial society.

Oshadogan, who has a Nigerian father and an Italian mother, was born in Genoa 20 years ago. But he made headlines at the weekend when under-21 coach Cesare Maldini called up him for the forthcoming matches against Moldova and Georgia.

He was not taken aback by the front-page press coverage, which also highlighted the historical precedent set by Miguel Montuori, a mixed race Argentine who played for Italy A in the mid-1950s.

"I was convinced it would be like that," he said. "Even though Italy wants to be perceived as a modern nation, our people are not yet used to being in a multi-racial country, like in the United States for example."

"In other sports, Carlton Myers (basketball), Fiona May (athletics) and Patrizio Kalambay (boxing) have all represented Italy. But the average Italian, without him being a racist, is not used to seeing a coloured person in a national team, and especially not the football team."

"I feel like any other youth of my age," he said at the Borghesiana training ground here, but added: "I have met the occasional Cretin who had something to

say about the colour of my skin.

"It happened at school, but what really counts is attaching the right amount of importance to things."

What counts now, aside from Foggia, his studies and a passion for the violin, is making a dream come true. But he is wary of making claims of being Italy's answer to Viv Anderson, the first black Englishman to play for his country.

"When I was just a lad playing for the Pisa Youth Squad, I dreamed of playing for the national team. Thanks to Maldini, it's coming true — but don't ask me if I'm going to make the grade with Arrigo Sacchi," he said.

"I want to keep my feet firmly on the ground and take things day by day. It's also better to avoid comparisons with other defenders, they're the maestros to study on television."

Italy's under 21 team start their campaign for a fourth consecutive Moldova in Chisinau on October 3 and Georgia at Perugia on October 9.

Oshadogan meanwhile revealed an insight into his family life, and the loyalties divided by the 1994 World Cup.

"I was pleased that Nigeria won the Olympic soccer tournament," he told the Italian news agency ANSA, "but at USA 94, when my father's country played against Italy, I supported Italy."

"And to avoid any problems with dad, we watched the match separately."



Baltimore Orioles' second baseman Roberto Alomar checks out his bat prior to taking batting practice at Camden Yards in preparation for the opening round of the playoffs against the Cleveland Indians. Alomar received a mixed reception from fans attending the workout (Reuters photo)

games," said Rich Levin, public relations director for Major League baseball. "We expect them to honor their contract."

Alomar issued a release through the team that apolo-

gized to Hirschbeck and his family. The apology came three days after Alomar said he had "no regrets" about spitting on Hirschbeck and questioning his integrity.

"I wish to take this oppor-

tunity to apologise to John Hirschbeck and his family for any pain and embarrassment that my comments and actions may have caused them," Alomar said.

deeply regret my disrespectful conduct towards a man that I know always gives his utmost as an umpire. Certainly, he has worked at least as hard as I have to make it to the majors."

Alomar was ejected by Hirschbeck on Friday night in Toronto for arguing balls and strikes. He bumped Hirschbeck and spat on the umpire before being restrained by manager Davey Johnson. After the game, Alomar said Hirschbeck had become "more bitter" since the death of his son.

Hirschbeck, who had to be restrained after learning of Alomar's comments, was relieved of his umpiring duties Saturday and Sunday.

After appealing his suspension, Alomar homered in the 10th inning Saturday, giving the Orioles the win they needed to wrap up the American League wild-card berth.

Alomar also said he and the Orioles pledged to contribute \$50,000 each to John Hopkins University and the Kennedy Krieger Institute for ALD Research. Hirschbeck's son died earlier this year from adrenoleukodystrophy, a form of leukemia that affects mainly children and is known as ALD.

Souness and Hoddle plan to trim Le Tissier for England duty

LONDON (AFP) — Glenn Hoddle and Graeme Souness have worked out a plan to produce a more slimline Matthew Le Tissier for England duty.

It was Southampton manager Souness who tipped off Hoddle about Le Tissier's extra pounds and the midfielder maestro now follows a testing exercise programme to help him fight the flab.

Le Tissier has since lost five pounds, but Souness believes Le Tissier needs to trim another half dozen off his frame before being fit enough for Hoddle's troops.

Le Tissier admitted: "I don't mind coming back in the afternoons. If the manager thinks it will help me I am more than happy to go along with it."

"I would love to start

against Poland. I have never had a proper run with England, but I feel confident. I know I have been erratic in the past, so I don't want my present form to be another false dawn."

Le Tissier, who has only scored five goals this season compared with 10 at the same stage last year, added: "I am fitter than I have been for a long time and I feel capable of scoring

more goals."

Souness said: "I have had a long chat with Glenn about Le Tissier and we are doing what we can to improve him. He is more than willing to work hard and he has taken to extra training sessions."

"There are not many players anywhere with his natural talent, but he needs to work harder if we are to get the best out of him."

"There are times when

I think he could work a lot harder to get the ball for himself. He needs to be fit to do that and that's why we are working him harder. If he plays well for us and gains his international place then everyone benefits."

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Sameh Madani
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2 more Palestinians die of wounds sustained in violence over tunnel

GAZA (Agencies) — Two Palestinians, one a 10-year-old boy, wounded in gun battles with Israeli troops last week have died, raising to 72 the number of Palestinians and Israelis killed in the clashes. Palestinian hospital officials said on Tuesday.

The officials in the Gaza Strip said the two, Tamer Al Masri, 10, and Mohammad Shaleh, 25, a Palestinian policeman, were both wounded on Thursday, the bloodiest of four days of clashes.

Fifteen Israeli soldiers were killed in the fighting sparked by Israel's opening last Tuesday of a tunnel near Muslim holy places in Jerusalem.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai criticised on Tuesday the timing of the opening of a tunnel in Jerusalem.

It was the third time Mr. Mordechai had expressed doubts about the action by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"We have the right to open it when we decide to open it," Mr. Mordechai told Israel's army radio.

"The principal problem, in my opinion, was the issue of the timing," he said.

Israelis on high alert

Israeli security services were on high alert Tuesday following warnings of attacks during the Washington summit of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu, security sources said. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Palestinian militants have planned attacks on Israeli soil intended to derail the reconciliation effort.

Israel's Shin Bet intelligence agency has received warnings of planned attacks by the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad and Hamas groups and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the sources said.

The warnings started pouring in Sunday, immediately following the announcement of the summit, they said. Downtown Jerusalem was

filled with police under orders to check every suspicious package and every suspicious vehicle.

Mr. Mordechai confirmed Tuesday that there have been several attempted attacks by militants in the last few days, but did not give details.

"I can only assure you that we are doing everything we can to offer security, both in perception and in reality," he said on Israel Radio.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Netanyahu were meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton and King Hussein at the White House on Tuesday.

"We must assert the continuation of the spirit of co-operation with Israel," Hamas spokesman Mahmoud Zahar said Tuesday, suggesting the militant groups see it in their interest to perpetuate the instability.

Grassroots support for Hamas and Islamic Jihad had plunged following a spate of bombings that killed scores of Israeli civilians in February and March. Israel responded with a tight closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip that caused widespread economic hardship.

But sympathy for the militants and their suicide bomb tactics increased during the recent violence, fuelled by growing frustration with the new Israeli government's tougher line on the Palestinians.

Support for peace talks

A poll by the Bethlehem-based Palestinian Centre for Public Opinion found that 69 per cent of Palestinians polled support continuing the violence if the current situation remains bad, while 22 per cent oppose it and nine per cent had no opinion.

However, 61 per cent said they are not opposed to stopping the violence in order to give negotiations a chance.

The poll of 500 adults, conducted over the weekend, had a margin of error of 2.5 percentage points.

The sources said there were also fears of Katyusha rocket attacks on northern Israel

from the Lebanese Hizbollah group, which is fighting to eject Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

Settlers celebrate

With Hebron's Palestinians under curfew, thousands of Jewish settlers danced and sang near the Ibrahim Mosque to press for continued Israeli rule of the city.

More than 5,000 settlers celebrated the Jewish Sukkot holiday Monday and appealed to Mr. Netanyahu to withdraw troops from Hebron, the last West Bank town under occupation, as the peace accord called for Israel to do so six months ago.

Many of the Jews travelled to Hebron from elsewhere — only 450 Jewish settlers live among Hebron's 120,000 Palestinians. They said an Israeli pullout would endanger the tiny Jewish minority.

"Hebron is not a personal asset — it is not yours and it is not Clinton's," said nationalist lawmaker Rehavam Zeevi, addressing his comment to Mr. Netanyahu.

Hundreds of border police stood guard to prevent violence.

Hebron's Palestinians, who have been under curfew since Thursday, remained barred from the streets during the Jewish celebration.

They have been allowed out for a few hours each morning, and there was minor stone-throwing during those hours on Sunday and Monday.

Mr. Netanyahu has said Hebron's Jews would not be safe if he withdrew troops from Hebron, but according to Israeli reports Monday, the Israeli leader planned to agree to a pullout date during a summit with Mr. Arafat in Washington on Tuesday.

Some Israeli reports said Mr. Netanyahu also might agree to a timetable for future negotiations, while Mr. Arafat could pledge at the summit to end the violence and stop objecting to the opening of the tunnel in Jerusalem.

Joshua Adler, a settler at the Hebron rally, said the summit would test Mr. Netanyahu.



FAREWELL: The father of Tamer Al Masri kisses for the last time his ten-year-old son who was shot three days ago during clashes with Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip and died Tuesday. Nearly 60 Palestinians were dead and 1,500 were injured in the clashes in addition to 14 Israeli soldiers (Reuters photo)

Israelis still support peace deals, think tunnel opening was wrong

TEL AVIV (AGENCIES) — An opinion poll in Israel showed on Tuesday that an overwhelming majority of Israelis want the peace process with Palestinians to continue while many expressed dissatisfaction with the performance of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

A shavakim Panorama poll in the Maariv newspaper found that 57 per cent of the 521 Israelis surveyed on Monday said Mr. Netanyahu's performance during last week's violence in which recently 60 Palestinians and 14 Israelis died had been unsatisfactory compared with 43 per cent who

replied they were satisfied.

The poll found that 79.5 per cent favoured pursuing the implementation of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deals and 20.5 did not.

Mr. Netanyahu, who defeated Shimon Peres by less than one percentage point in May elections, wants to renegotiate some points in the deal and opposes exchanging peace for occupied Arab land.

According to the poll, 54 per cent believed that Mr. Netanyahu's decision to open an archaeological tunnel in Jerusalem that touched off the violence

had been a mistake as opposed to 46 per cent who supported his move.

But 60.5 per cent wanted to keep the ancient passageway open compared with 39.5 per cent who favoured closing it.

Asked who reaped more gains from the crisis, 63.5 per cent said Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and 36.5 per cent believed that Mr. Netanyahu had.

Two-thirds of those surveyed said it had been a mistake to arm Palestinian policemen, some of whom shot at Israeli soldiers during the clashes.

Ground set for first trial of mass war crimes

THE HAGUE (R) — A U.N. criminal tribunal gave the go-ahead on Tuesday for its first mass war crimes trial, rejecting a motion from four suspects to be tried separately.

The four, three Muslims and a Croat, are charged with responsibility for war crimes against Serbs at the Celebici camp near Konjic in central Bosnia in 1992.

Two of the Muslims — deputy camp commander Hazim Delic, 36, and 23-year-old camp guard Esad Landzo — pleaded not guilty at the U.N. criminal tribunal for former Yugoslavia in June.

Both men were in the Hague court on Tuesday to argue that they should be provisionally released from custody.

The Celebici indictment also names Croat camp commander Zdravko Mucic and Bosnian Muslim military commander Zejnil Delalic. Delic has denied counts of command responsibility for deaths, tortures and rapes at the camp. He is also accused of taking part in repeated rapes and savage beatings, including one attack when he and Landzo are alleged to have beaten a man with shovels, suffocating him and then burning a cross onto his hand.

Landzo is accused of beating a man while forcing him to do push ups, placing heated metal pincers on the man's tongue and in his ear. He, too, is accused of repeated rapes.

Delic and Landzo were arrested in Sarajevo in April and have been held in tribunal custody in the Hague since June 13.

Mucic was arrested in Austria and pleaded not guilty in the Hague on April 11. Delalic, picked up by German police in March, entered a not guilty plea on May 9.

Mr. Razaq said he had no information on Mr. Masood's strength and would not disclose his own.

Iraqi oil pipeline to open soon — Ciller

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller said on Tuesday U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali had told her Iraq's oil pipeline would be reopened in a few weeks under a U.N. plan, state-owned Anatolian news agency reported.

"U.N. Secretary-General Ghali said the Kerkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline will be opened in a few weeks," she was quoted by the agency as telling reporters on her return from an official visit to the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

She gave no further details.

The U.N. plan, agreed on May 20, was to allow Iraq to sell oil worth \$2 billion over six months to buy food and medicine for its people who have been suffering under a U.N. trade embargo since Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

But the United Nations suspended the deal early in September after Iraqi forces attacked the Kurdish-held north of the country where the pipeline passes. The assault disrupted plans to place U.N. oil monitors who would ensure that oil sales were implemented in line with the U.N. plan.

Baghdad's intervention also prompted U.S. missile strikes on southern Iraq.

Iraqi forces are believed to have since withdrawn from the north, now under almost total control of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) which struck a military deal with Baghdad to attack the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Oil analysts earlier said they did not expect the plan to be implemented before safety of the monitors was ensured. This could take months, given the unstable situation in northern Iraq.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammed Al Sahaf, speaking to Iraqi television on Monday night from New York, said he saw a consen-

Weapons report incomplete, U.N. inspector tells Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — A senior United Nations weapons inspector has told Iraqi authorities that "final" reports submitted by Baghdad in August on scrapping its weapons of mass destruction were flawed and incomplete.

Deputy Chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) Charles Duelfer said he told Iraqi officials that initial U.N. assessments showed inconsistencies in reports on Iraq's chemical, biological and missile capabilities.

"There are problems of omission or error in all three areas," Mr. Duelfer said during his three-day visit to Baghdad.

Approval of the reports, known as full, final and complete disclosures (FFCDs), is a key requirement for lifting crippling sanctions imposed on Iraq over its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Iraq has submitted several previous versions of its final disclosures to UNSCOM, which is charged with dismantling Baghdad's arsenal under terms of the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire. It told UNSCOM its August disclosures really were complete.

"Our judgement on the FFCDs is not final. But... The purpose of my visit was a message that the FFCDs as we see them have important problems," Mr. Duelfer told Reuters.

"The initial assessment of our experts is there are important problems in each area," he said. "We have to resolve those fears."

Mr. Duelfer declined to say what the Iraqi response was to his message. He is due to meet Oil Minister Amer Rasheed, former head of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Commission, early on Wednesday before leaving Baghdad.

UNSCOM head Rolf Ekeus is due to submit his six-monthly report to the U.N. Security Council on Oct. 11 and visit Baghdad later in the month. He says he believes Iraq is still concealing banned arms.

Mr. Duelfer said the issue of access to sites deemed sensitive by Iraq because they are connected to state or presidential security remained a problem.

"We have yet to have full access," he said.

us among foreign ministers

Ciller urged the United Nations on Monday to give the go-ahead for the oil-sale plan as soon as possible despite U.S. concerns about the security situation in the north of the country.

In Washington, the U.S. Treasury department on Monday confirmed that it had approved the establishment of a U.N. escrow account to hold proceeds of the U.N.-Iraq oil-for-food sale once it begins.

Meanwhile also Mrs.

Iraq had been warned in early September that the deal could be delayed for months.

Meanwhile also Mrs.

Noise drives New Yorkers crazy

NEW YORK (R) — New Yorkers can't stand the noise anymore. A telephone hotline set up to help police curb panhandling, prostitution and public drinking has received more complaints about the constant barrage of sound people live with than anything else. The toll-free, 24-hour line opened two weeks ago as part of a campaign to stop so-called "quality of life" crimes, but 43 per cent of the calls have been about noise from car alarms, loud music, roaring trucks, machinery and motorcycles. Police said Tuesday operators have logged 1,279 calls with 545 complaints about noise and only 79 about panhandlers and 54 each about prostitutes and drinking in public. Officials have attributed the lowest crime rate in decades to their quality-of-life strategy, which is based on the belief that many people who commit minor offences go on to perpetrate major crimes. In establishing the on-emergency telephone line, police asked the public to also report aggressive panhandlers, loiterers at automatic banking machines, illegal dumpers and the so-called "squeegee men" — who approach stationary cars at intersections and wash windshields with rubber implements known as squeegees in expectation of a tip. For shootings, robberies and other emergencies, New Yorkers still call 911.

Another French police officer kills himself

SAINT ETIENNE, France (AFP) — A French police officer, aged 42, shot and killed himself with a service revolver at a police station in this central town, a police spokesman said. He was the 41st policeman to commit suicide in France this year and the seventh last month. He was found dead by colleagues after he failed to join them as planned to attend a local soccer match. The police officer, whose name was not disclosed, was married and the father of two children. French police officers have been committing suicide at an alarming rate, a trend that experts have blamed on long hours, low pay, high stress and disrespect among the French public towards the police services.

Trump sells casino for \$480 million

NEW YORK (AFP) — Stockholders of Trump Hotels and Casino Resorts (THCR) voted overwhelmingly Monday to purchase for \$480 million the Casino Castle Resort owned privately by Donald Trump. THCR's purchase of Castle from New York developer Donald Trump was approved by 82 per cent of the votes not controlled by Mr. Trump. Mr. Trump abstained because of a potential conflict of interest. As a result of the deal, the four casinos in the Trump empire — three in Atlantic City and one floating casino on Lake Michigan — are now in the THCR fold. The Castle, located on the marina of Atlantic City, New Jersey, is set to undergo a \$175-million expansion within the next few years. Plans also call for the construction of an adjacent floating casino 131 metres long.

Taleban serve notice on Masood, but balk at challenging Dostum

JABAL OS-SIRAJ, Afghanistan (R) — Afghanistan's hardline Islamic Taleban militia said on Tuesday it had told former government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood to surrender or be wiped out of his valley stronghold north of Kabul.

Commander Abdul Razaq told Reuters at his headquarters at the mouth of the Panjsher Valley he had sent a letter to Mr. Masood saying that if he stopped fighting "we will forgive him."

"(But) if he goes on fighting, we will clear the area of his presence," said Mr. Razaq, commander of Taleban's forces which have swept 75 kilometres north of Kabul in the past few days and bottled up Mr. Masood in the Panjsher Valley.

The Taleban now control more than three-quarters of war-weary Afghanistan after capturing the capital on Friday with barely a shot fired.

They have named a six-man interim "shura" or council to run Afghanistan as a strict Islamic state.

Mr. Razaq said no time limit had been set for Mr. Masood to reply, but that he was busy planning an assault on the valley which Mr. Masood defended successfully against Soviet forces in the 1980s.

Mr. Razaq declined to say when the assault might begin, but Taleban fighters said they had already received orders to move early on Wednesday in two directions — against the Panjsher and against Uzbek forces of General Abdul Rashid Dostum further

north up the Salang highway.

"The orders have been given. We move against the Panjsher and Dostum early tomorrow. Everything is ready," said one Taleban fighter.

Mr. Razaq said he did not want to fight the Uzbek forces of Gen. Dostum, whose headquarters are in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, however.

As the Taleban pushed north along the Salang Highway from Jabal Os Siraj, a small green oasis in a khaki landscape of rugged, treeless mountains. Gen. Dostum sent forces on Monday south of the Salang tunnel, a key choke point on the road from Kabul to Central Asia.

Taleban fighters said another ultimatum had been sent to the Uzbeks to withdraw to their previous positions by 4 p.m. (1130 GMT) on Tuesday or be attacked.

But Mr. Razaq said it had been sent without the authorisation of the Taleban high command and was not valid.

Uzbek commander Atiqullah told Reuters at the Salang tunnel there was no question of allowing the Taleban to move through.

"Civilians are welcome to pass through, but if the Taleban come with force we will fight them," he said in the narrow, rocky Salang path through the Hindu Kush, where the wind is already edged with a winter chill.

Mr. Atiqullah was scornful of the Taleban's brand of Islam, which contrasts sharply with the more relaxed attitude of the Uzbeks.

"All these things they are doing, like telling women they can't work and demanding men grow beards, do you think this is appropriate for the 20th century?" asked the bearded Uzbek.

If the Taleban do resume their assault, they could be in for some of the hardest fighting since their movement was born in religious schools in Pakistan refugee camps two years ago.

Gen. Dostum and Mr. Masood have the only major forces still ranged against the Taleban and are the two generals with the most formidable reputations.

The Soviet forces backing a then-communist government could over wrest control of the Panjsher from Mr. Masood, who is now preparing to defend it against the Taleban, Reuters TV correspondent Laurent Hamida reported from inside the valley.

He said Mr. Masood's men had blown in the side of the narrow gorge leading on to the valley to form a rock barrier across the road and were busy blowing up more sections of it inside the valley on Tuesday.

But he said the local population expected heavy fighting and hundreds were packing up and trying to leave the valley.

It was not clear whether Mr. Masood still had the men with the morale and equipment for a lengthy defence after his headlong flight from Kabul since Friday.

Mr. Razaq said he had no information on Mr. Masood's strength and would not disclose his own.